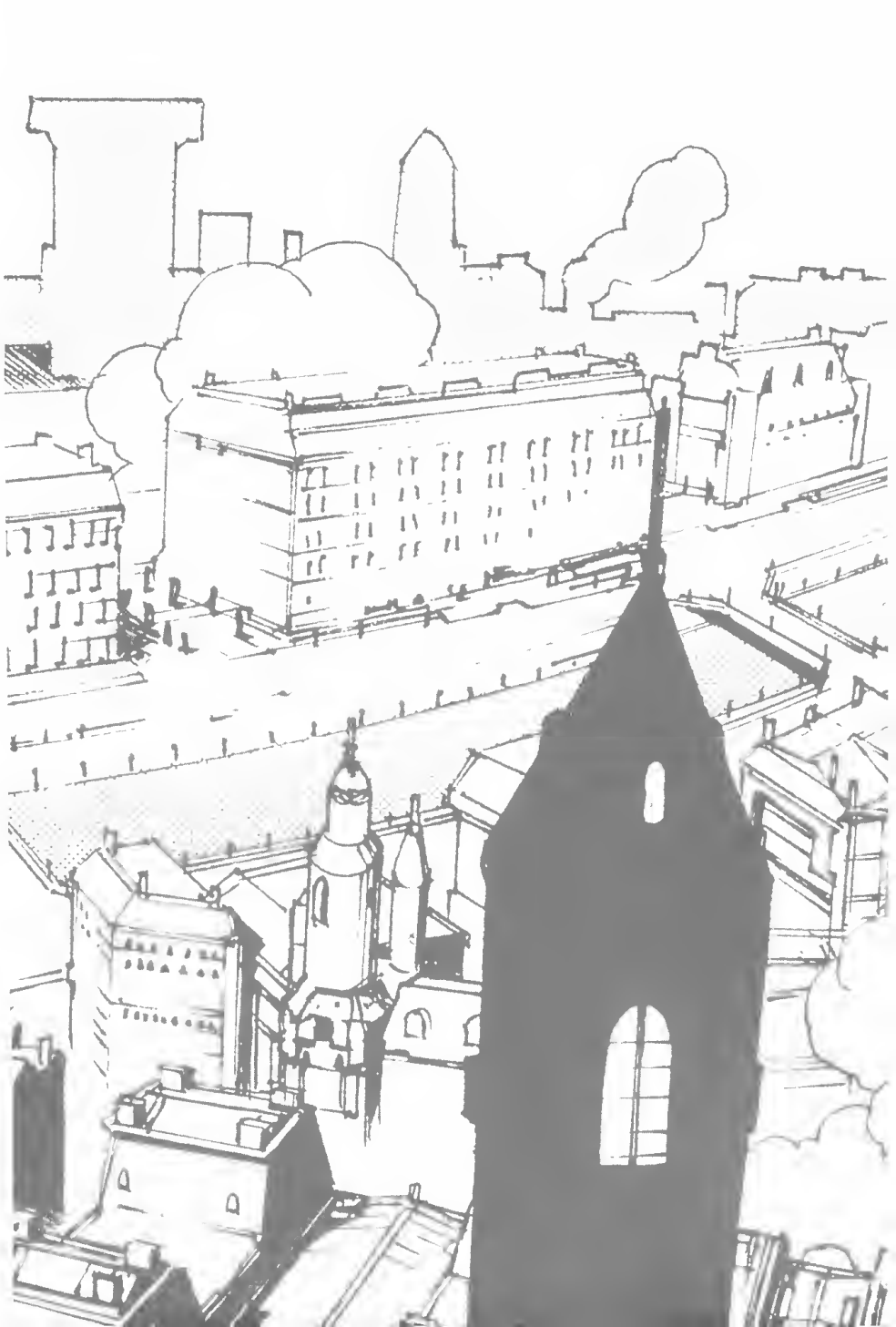
VOL. 3
STORY AND ART BY
KIA ASAMIYA



STEAM DETECTIVES

VOL. 3

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Steam-Punk Mysteries

The place is Steam City, a mixture of London and Tokyo's Asakusa district, and boy detective Narutaki is gaining quite a reputation as he solves the myriad of mysteries that come to his door.

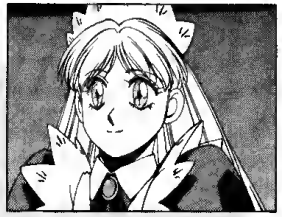
In his first case, the evil Phantom Knight tricks beautiful nurse Ling Ling and her *megamaton* robot Goriki into luring Narutaki into a trap. Ling Ling thinks the Phantom Knight can rescue the brain of her father, the brilliant scientist Dr. Hsu, from the body of her steam-powered *megamaton*, but the treacherous Phantom Knight has no intention of helping her. After defeating the plans of the Phantom Knight, Ling Ling and Goriki ask to join Narutaki and his butler Kawakubo in the Narutaki Detective Agency, and together they formed the Steam Detectives.

But their work is just beginning and the agency must solve a dizzying array of mysteries including a hijack attempt by the machine fetishist, Machine Baron; two attacks by Dr. Guilty to defeat Goriki and prove his Shadow Bolt *megamaton* designs superior; Ling Ling's evil opposite Lang Lang's kidnapping of Narutaki, abetted by the boy criminal Le Bread; a second showdown with Phantom Knight, who bears a grudge against Narutaki's late father for some secret reason; and a pearl heist by the ingenious cat-burglar the Red Scorpion.

Since Narutaki and his friends solve every case with which they are presented, they have gained a good reputation throughout Steam City. But that means defeating the boy detective will make a criminal famous, and this lure is too much for the unhinged criminal element to resist!

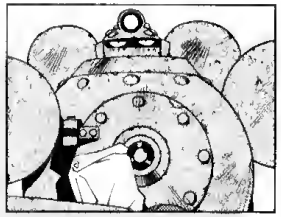
Narutaki

Son of the greatest detective in the history of Steam City, his parents' murder has left him with only his butler's help in his quest to follow in his father's footsteps.



Ling Ling

It is known that the beautiful nurse Ling Ling's father is the great scientist Dr. Hsu, but her past is still a mystery.



Goriki

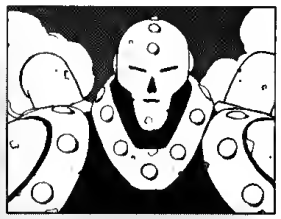
A steam-powered *megamaton* robot that is fiercely loyal to Ling Ling. Somewhere inside its body is the brain of Dr. Hsu.

Kawakubo

Narutaki's loyal butler and a man of many resources.

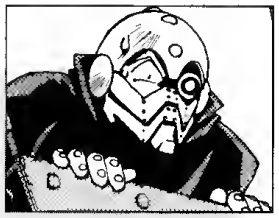
Inspector Onigawara

This gruff detective of the Steam City Police Force is infatuated with Ling Ling.



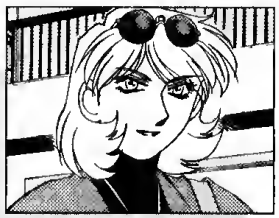
Emperor of Steam

A fictional murderer in a series of horror novels who seems to have been brought to life.



The Machine Baron

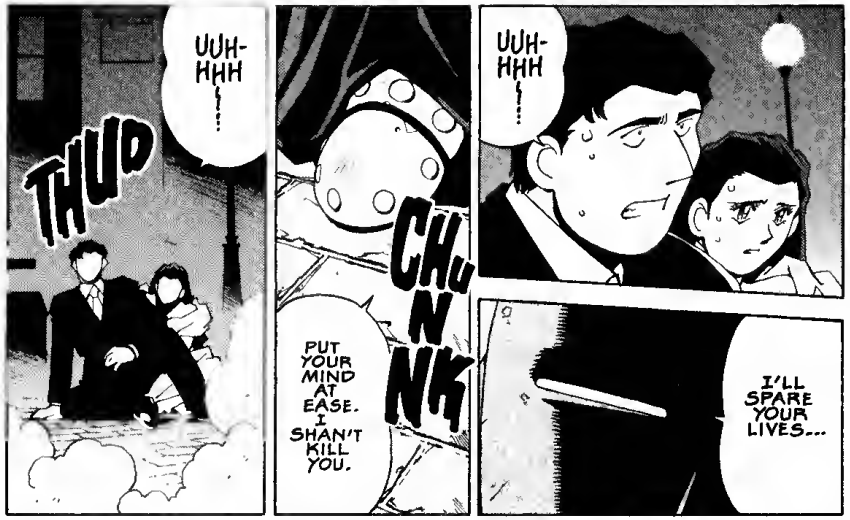
An insane machine fetishist who wants Goriki for his own.



Amanda Rose

A newspaper photographer who may not be all she seems to be.

HA HA HA HA HA HAA!
WITNESSES.
HOW VERY CONVENIENT!
SPLEN-DID!


THUD
UUH-HHH!
CHUNNK
PUT YOUR MIND AT EASE. I SHAN'T KILL YOU.
UUH-HHH!
I'LL SPARE YOUR LIVES...

...IN RETURN YOU MUST TELL EVERYONE MY NAME!!
JUST LIKE THIS WHITE HAZE, THE DENIZENS OF THIS CAPITAL CITY MUST FEEL MY EXISTENCE IN THEIR BONES!

YOUR NAME?
CHUNNK
EXACTLY! AND MY NAME IS...

THE EMPEROR OF STEAM!!
FSSSSSHHAA
AAAA
FSSHAA

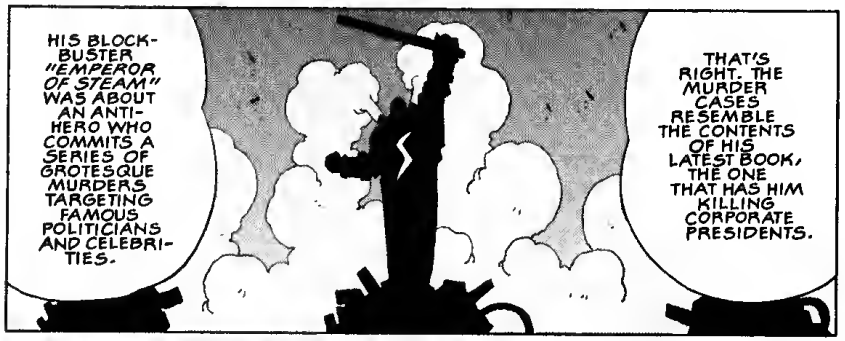
CASE 8, PART 1

THE TERRIFYING EMPEROR OF STEAM

FSSH
WHAT IS THE TRUTH BEHIND THIS, MR. KING!?
WHY ARE THEY SEARCHING YOUR HOUSE!?
THIS SEARCH IS COMPLETELY UNJUSTIFIED!
THE CASE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME!

DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT THESE RECENT MURDERS EXACTLY FOLLOW THE DESCRIPTIONS IN YOUR NOVELS?
THE MURDERER IS EVEN NAMING HIMSELF AFTER ONE OF YOUR CHARACTERS.
IT'S GIVEN ME NO END OF TROUBLE.
AND CAUSED NO SMALL IRRITATION!
DO YOU STILL PLAN ON WRITING YOUR SEQUEL?
OF COURSE. IT WILL BE PUBLISHED IN TWO MONTHS!

STEAM KING ?
THE HORROR FICTION WRITER? SURE, I KNOW OF HIM. I'VE READ HIS BOOKS.


HIS BLOCK-BUSTER "EMPEROR OF STEAM" WAS ABOUT AN ANTI-HERO WHO COMMITS A SERIES OF GROTESQUE MURDERS TARGETING FAMOUS POLITICIANS AND CELEBRI-TIES.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MURDER CASES RESEMBLE THE CONTENTS OF HIS LATEST BOOK, THE ONE THAT HAS HIM KILLING CORPORATE PRESIDENTS.

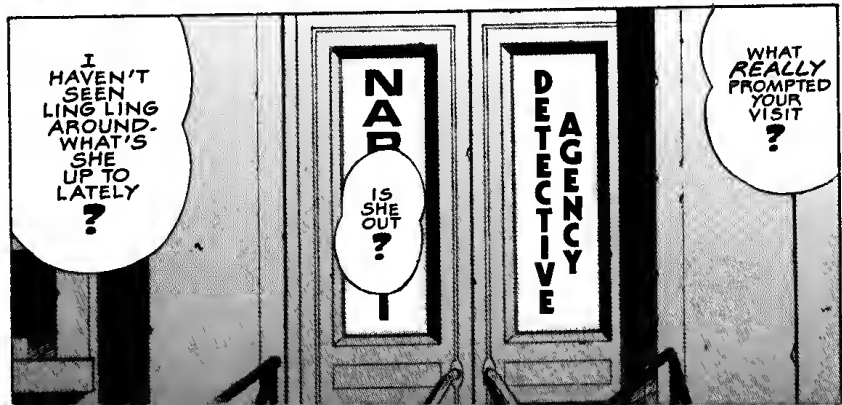
I THINK THAT KING IS SOMEHOW CON-NECTED TO THESE SERIAL KILLINGS.
KING, HIM-SELF ?
CON-NECTED, NOTHING. I THINK HE'S THE MURDERER !!
SS SUP
YUK! WHAT THE HELL IS THIS COFFEE !?
YOU'RE STILL A KID! YOU SHOULDN'T BE DRINK-ING THIS KIND OF MUD!
SO YOU'RE SAYING MR. KING IS THE EMPEROR OF STEAM ?

TH-WOP
HE'S GOT NO ALIBI.

OF COURSE, WE DON'T GOT ANY PROOF TO CHARGE HIM WITH, EITHER.
THEN WHY...

MY COP'S INTUI-TION.
MY INTUITION TELLS ME IT'S HIM.

YOU SHOULDN'T TREAT A GUY LIKE A CRIMINAL JUST BECAUSE OF YOUR INTUI-TION.
WELL, JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.
WE'VE GOT HIM UNDER TWENTY-FOUR HOUR SURVEIL-LANCE.
FSS FSS
SHH
SHH
WE'LL CATCH HIM IN THE ACT.

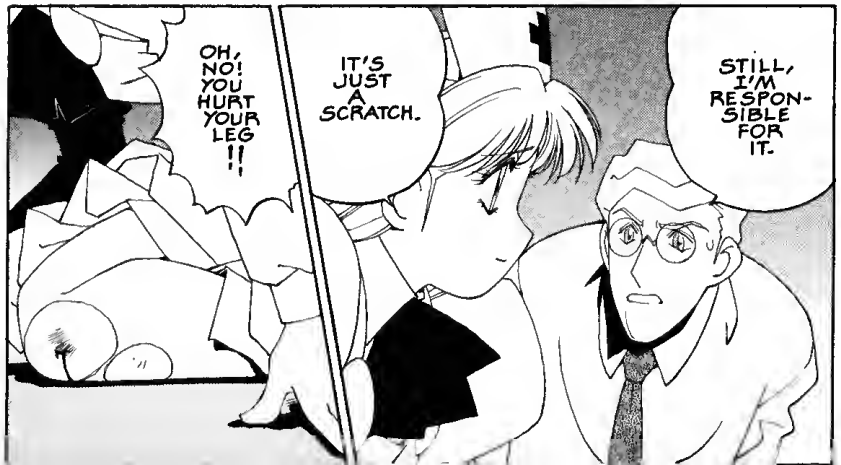

I HAVEN'T SEEN LING LING AROUND. WHAT'S SHE UP TO LATELY ?
NAB
IS SHE OUT ?
DETECTIVE AGENCY
WHAT REALLY PROMPTED YOUR VISIT ?

I'M INNO-CENT! WHY WON'T ANYONE BELIEVE ME ?!?
VR
OOM
SOME-BODY'S USING THE PLOTS OF MY NOVELS TO COMMIT MURDER!
WHO COULD POS-SIBLY DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT !?
VR RRRR
OOMM
WHO... !?
!!
VR
RRR

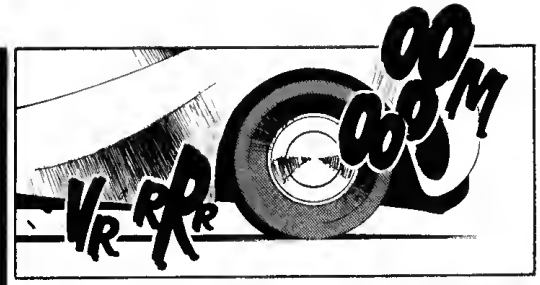
GAT CH
WATCH OUT!!
SKR EEE CH
SKR EEE CH
SKR EEE CH
KR ATTA
KRATTA
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT !?
TMP
YES, I THINK SO.
I'M FINE, BUT...
I'M SO SORRY, LOOK AT WHAT I DID TO YOUR BAGS!
YOU'RE SURE THAT YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, THOUGH ?
!

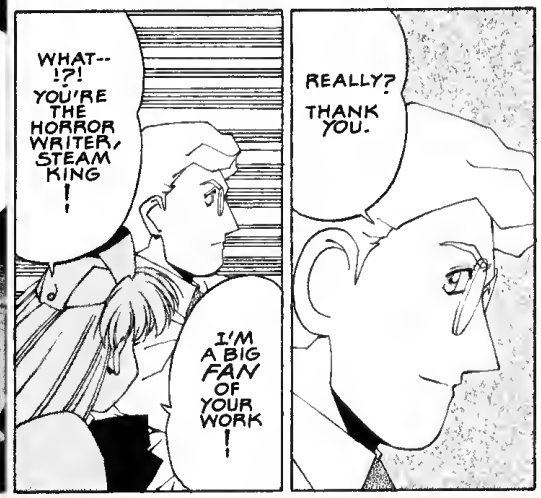
YES ?

I... UH...


OH, NO! YOU HURT YOUR LEG !!
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH.
STILL, I'M RESPON-SIBLE FOR IT.

I'LL DRIVE YOU HOME.
BOING
BOING
OH, NO ~~!!
PLEASE, IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO.


VR RRR
OOOM


WHAT--!?! YOU'RE THE HORROR WRITER, STEAM KING !
I'M A BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK !
REALLY? THANK YOU.

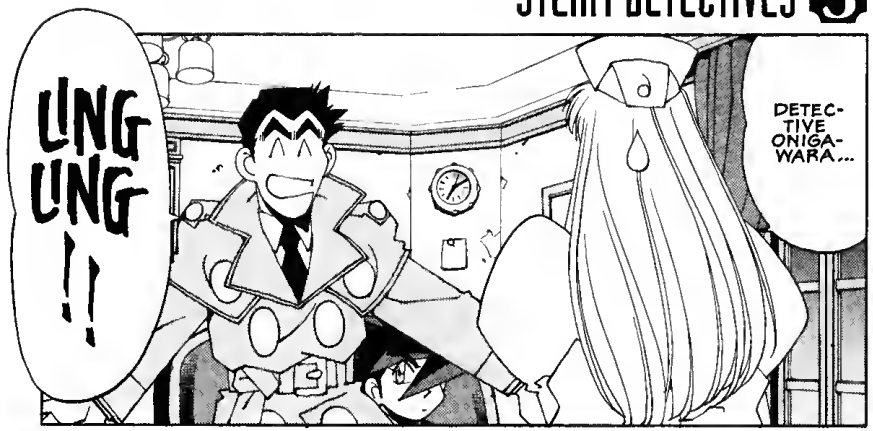
THAT MEANS A LOT, COMING FROM SOMEONE AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU.
!
DON'T SAY THAT...

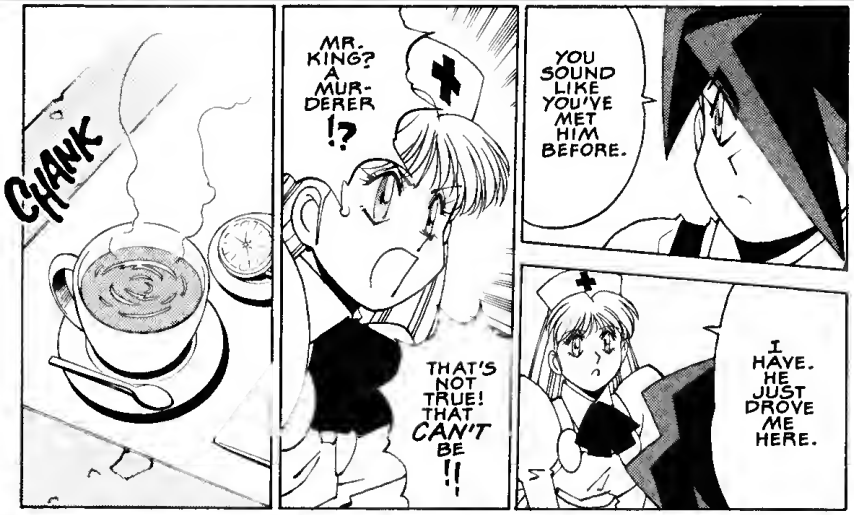
I CAN'T BELIEVE SUCH A NICE MAN AS YOU IS THE WRITER OF THOSE SCARY STORIES!
VR ROO OOM
HA HA HA HAA... DO YOU REALLY THINK I'M NICE ?

VR RR R
OH, THIS IS IT. THANK YOU.
WHY, THIS IS THE...
NARUTAKI
DETECTIVE AGENCY
NARU-TAKI DETEC-TIVE AGENCY...
OH, OKAY.

...RUN BY THAT BOY DETEC-TIVE.
.....
.....

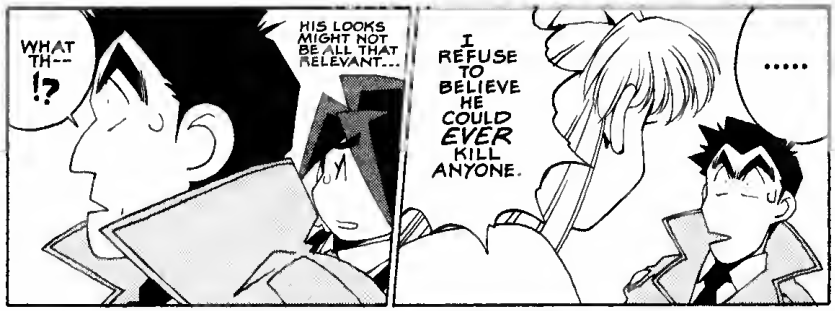
CHAK
I'M HOME. DO WE HAVE A VISITOR ?
IT LOOKS LIKE LING LING'S HOME.
!!

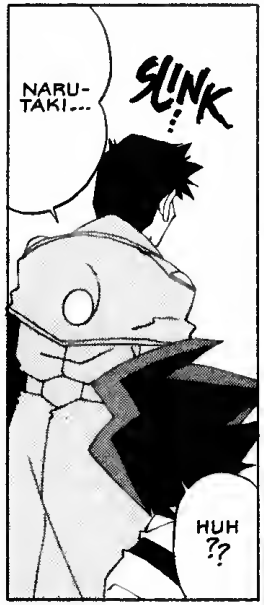

LING LING !!
DETEC-TIVE ONIGA-WARA...


CHANK
MR. KING? A MUR-DERER !?
THAT'S NOT TRUE! THAT CAN'T BE !!
YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'VE MET HIM BEFORE.
I HAVE. HE JUST DROVE ME HERE.

WHAT !?!
BOI-
HNK

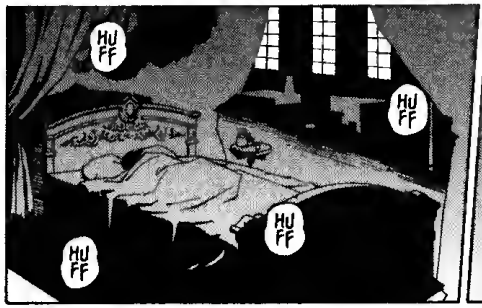
WE ONLY SPENT A FEW MOMENTS IN HIS CAR, BUT I COULD TELL HE WAS REALLY NICE.
HE'S A KIND, SENSITIVE GENTLE-MAN. ON TOP OF THAT, HE'S SO HAND-SOME !!


WHAT TH-- !?
HIS LOOKS MIGHT NOT BE ALL THAT RELEVANT...
I REFUSE TO BELIEVE HE COULD EVER KILL ANYONE.
.....


NARU-TAKI...
SLINK !
HUH ??

I'M GOING HOME. I'LL CONTACT YOU IF I HEAR ANYTHING.
O-OKAY...

FWEEEEE
FWEEEEEE


HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

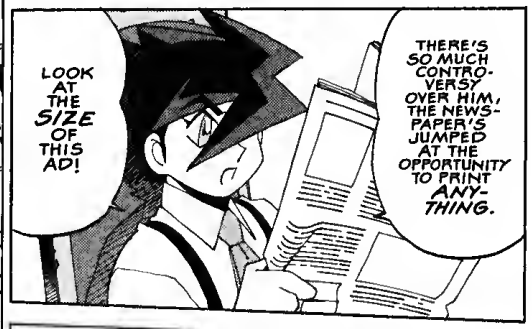
ARRRGH!
SSHHT

ANOTHER ATTACK !
MY MEDI-CATION !

KE-CHAK

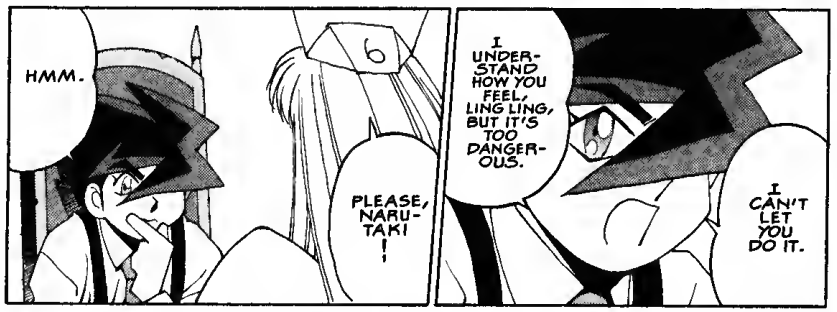
GULP...

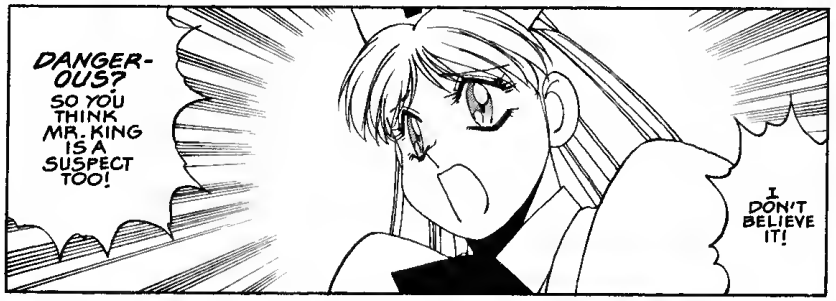
TEAM PRESS
r.STE
AUTHOR MR. STEAM KING SEEKS MAID.
ME!!
Mr.STEAM KING (26)
HM. BEST-SELLING AUTHOR STEAM KING SEEKS APPLICANT FOR A LIVE-IN MAID POSITION.
EAM DET


LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THIS AD!
THERE'S SO MUCH CONTRO-VERSY OVER HIM, THE NEWS-PAPER'S JUMPED AT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRINT ANY-THING.

SO WHY ARE YOU SHOWING THIS TO ME?
I WANT TO APPLY FOR THE POSITION!

WHAT ??
MR. KING PUT IN THIS AD TO PROVE TO EVERYONE THAT HE'S NOT A MURDERER.
HE NEEDS A WITNESS TO CONFIRM HIS ALIBI! I WANT TO HELP HIM PROVE HIS INNOCENCE!


HMM.
PLEASE, NARU-TAKI!
I UNDER-STAND HOW YOU FEEL, LING LING, BUT IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS.
I CAN'T LET YOU DO IT.


DANGER-OUS? SO YOU THINK MR. KING IS A SUSPECT TOO!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT!

NO, IT'S NOT THAT I SUSPECT HIM...
NARU-TAKI...
.....
ALL RIGHT. I CAN'T SEEM TO TALK YOU OUT OF IT, SO--
KLAP
REALLY !?! THANK YOU SO MUCH!

YOU HAVE TO PROMISE TO TAKE THIS WITH YOU. I THINK IT'LL BE USEFUL.
CHAK
WHAT IS IT ?
I JUST FINISHED MAKING IT. IT'S AN INVESTIGATION KIT.
AN INVESTIGATION KIT...
THIS STEAM DETECTIVES BADGE IS ALSO A TRANSMITTER.
MAKE SURE YOU WEAR IT AT ALL TIMES.
THIS DETECTIVE'S NOTE PAD ALSO FUNCTIONS AS A LOCATOR FOR THE BADGE.
IT ALSO HAS A CALCULATOR AND SENDS ELECTRONIC MAIL OVER THE PHONE LINES!
OH, THE PAPER DISSOLVES IN WATER. THE INK FROM THE FOUNTAIN PEN DISAPPEARS AFTER A FEW HOURS. THE STICKERS MAKE FOR INSTANT DISGUISES, AND THERE'S A SECRET CODE CARD. TRY IT OUT.
ARE YOU SURE THIS WORKS ?

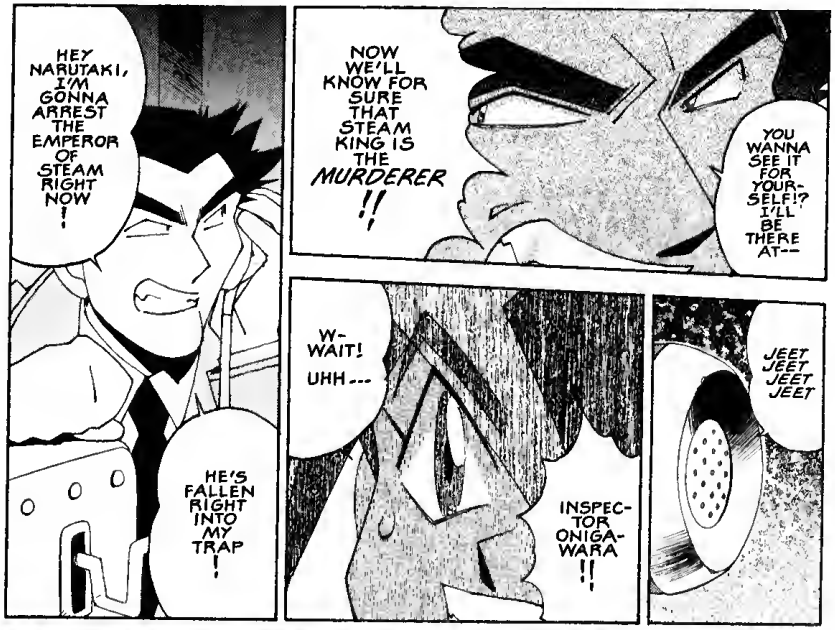
FYUUUUUUU
WELL, I'M OFF.
BE CAREFUL. AND MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT ME AT REGULAR INTERVALS EVERY DAY.
DETECTIVE AGENCY
ALL RIGHT !
WELL THEN, SIR.
TAKE CARE OF HER, KAWAKUBO
VR DOO DOM!

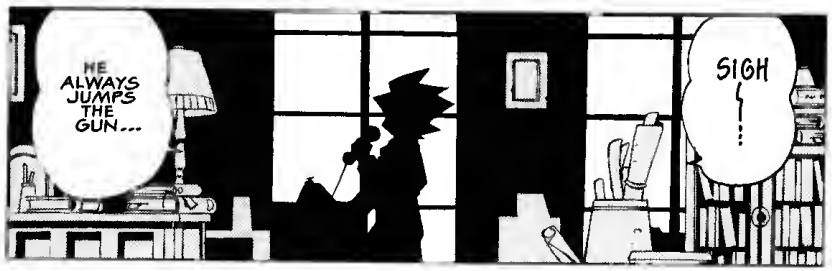
YOU ARE MY LAST VICTIM.
BUT YOU ALREADY REALIZED THAT.
!
UHH HH!!

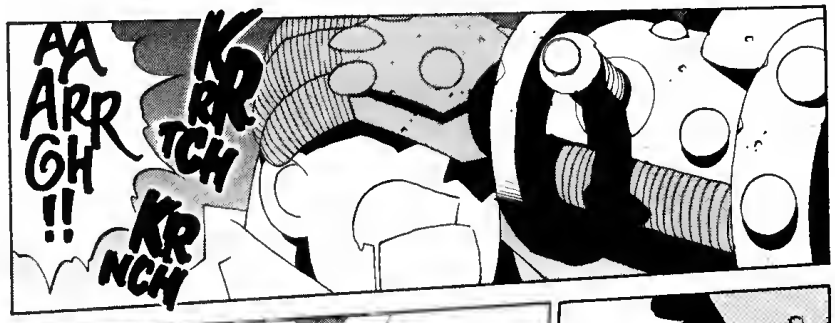
YOU KNEW YOU WERE NEXT!
FSHH
UUU
H
IF YOU HAD BEEN READING THE EMPEROR OF STEAM SERIES!!

E-EMPEROR OF STEAM...??
COME, IT IS TIME TO DIE.
CHANG

BRRRING
NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY...
OH, INSPECTOR ONIGAWARA.


HEY NARUTAKI, I'M GONNA ARREST THE EMPEROR OF STEAM RIGHT NOW!
HE'S FALLEN RIGHT INTO MY TRAP!
NOW WE'LL KNOW FOR SURE THAT STEAM KING IS THE MURDERER!!
YOU WANNA SEE IT FOR YOURSELF!? I'LL BE THERE AT--
W-WAIT! UHH...
INSPECTOR ONIGAWARA!!
JEET JEET JEET JEET


HE ALWAYS JUMPS THE GUN...
SIGH


AA ARR GH !!
KR RR TCH
KR NCH

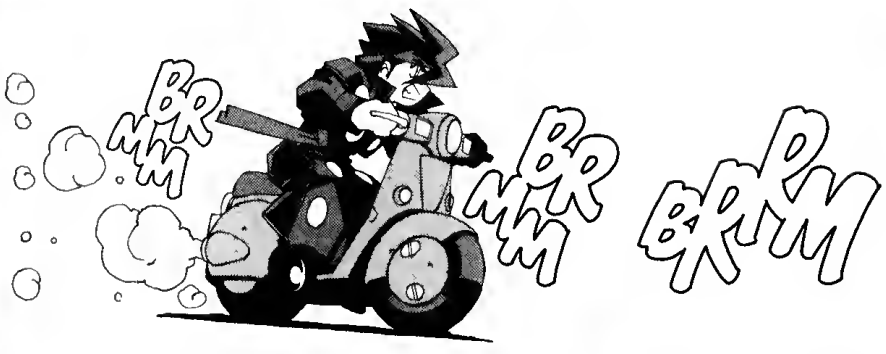
NOW, SHALL I CRUSH YOUR HEAD?
HA HA HA HA HA HA HAA!
THAT'S ENOUGH, EMPEROR OF STEAM !!
WHO DARES !?!

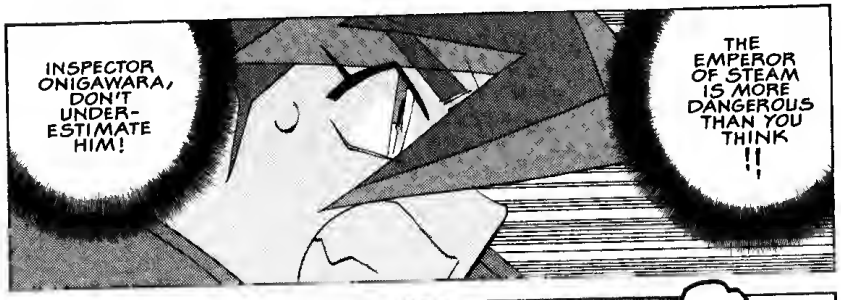
CHAHA
!!
SSH
AAAA

WE'VE GOT YOU SUR-ROUNDED !!
DO YOU INTEND TO ARREST ME ?
HAHAHAHAHAHA
HOW AMUSING!!
HANDS IN THE AIR !

UR GH!
TH UDD

YOU HAVE MY PER-MISSION TO TRY !
YOU SMALL SWARM OF POLICE INSECTS !!
GO GET HIM !!
GHAT-
F SHH
OOOOOO
CHA


BRMMM
BRMMM
BRRM


INSPECTOR ONIGAWARA, DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE HIM!
THE EMPEROR OF STEAM IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN YOU THINK !!

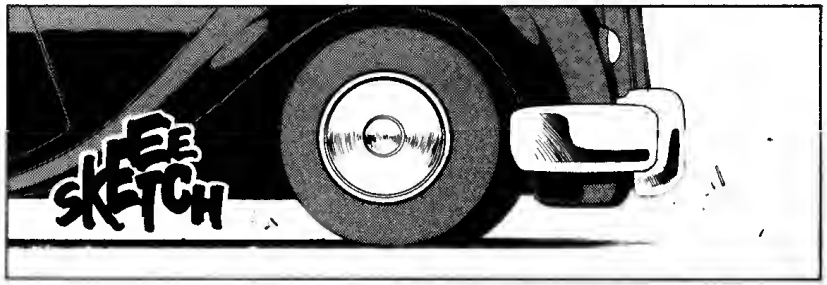
BRRM
BRRM
BRRM
BUH-WAAM!

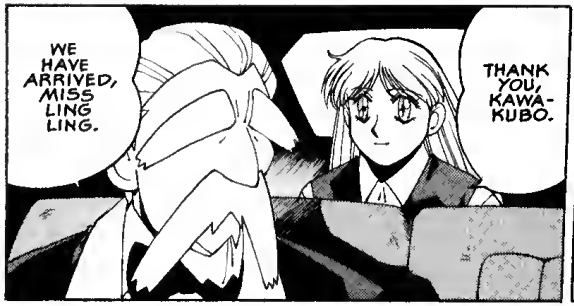
URGH--DAMN !!
KA-SHAAA
KA-SHAAA
FF
FW
EEEEE
EE EE
HA HA HA HA HAA- WHATEVER IS THE MATTER? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO ARREST ME!
WELL, MR. INSPECTOR ?
KA-SHAAA
KA-SHAAA
THUNK

YOUR TASK FORCE WERE AS INFANTS BEFORE ME!
A TANK MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE NEXT TIME...
ARE YOU SOME KINDA MONSTER?
OH... BUT THERE SHAN'T BE A NEXT TIME.
KONG
WOOSH
FAREWELL, INSPECTOR.

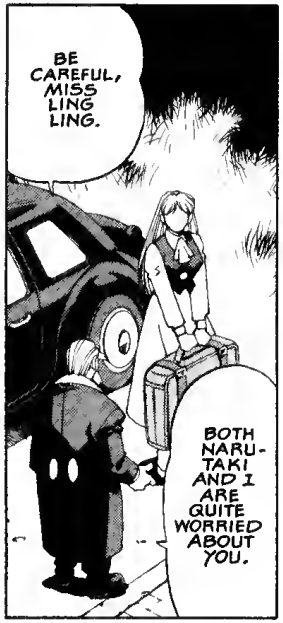
OOH
HYAAAHHH!!
WHOO
WHAT WAS THAT--!?
KA-
SHOOM
I-I'M STILL ALIVE!!!
KRK
KRK
AH!

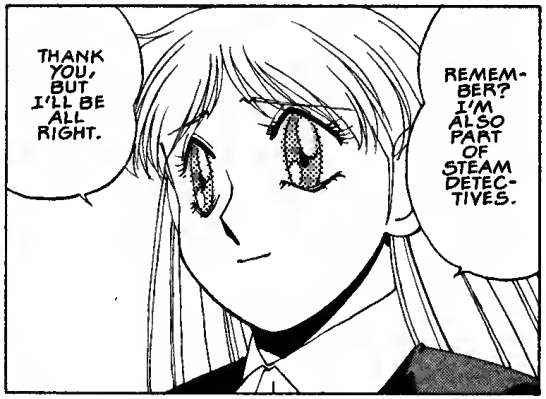
STOP RIGHT THERE, EMPEROR OF STEAM !!
ZAAHHN
ZAAHHN
URR GHH! WHO DARES STAND IN MY WAY!?


EE SKETCH


WE HAVE ARRIVED, MISS LING LING.
THANK YOU, KAWA-KUBO.

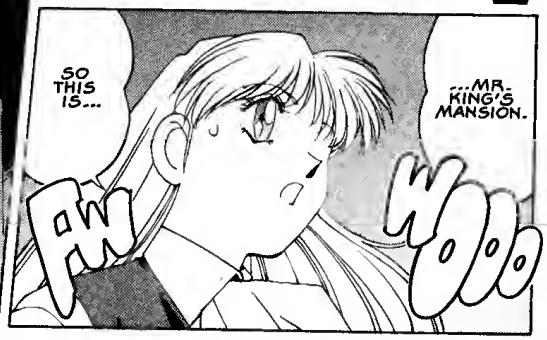
KA-CHAH


BE CAREFUL, MISS LING LING.
BOTH NARU-TAKI AND I ARE QUITE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.


THANK YOU, BUT I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.
REMEM-BER? I'M ALSO PART OF STEAM DETEC-TIVES.

OF COURSE.

VRR OOM

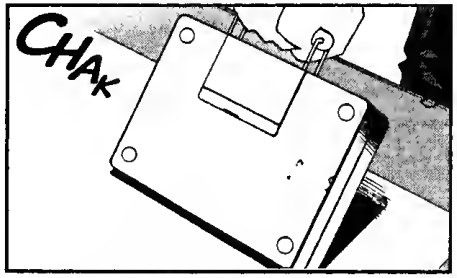

SO THIS IS...
...MR. KING'S MANSION.
AW
WOOO

FYU
YUUUUUU

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

The Secret Behind the Steam Detectives INVESTIGATION KIT

This investigation kit is absolutely essential for the Steam Detectives to maintain peace in our beloved Steam City! Even an elephant couldn't dent this shockproof and waterproof case which can withstand a depth of 200 meters. Any mystery can be solved with this kit! Here's the list of its features we secretly obtained!



ONLY STEAM DETECTIVES ARE PERMITTED TO USE THIS SPECIAL KIT

1 SD BADGE: This invaluable device can only be used by Steam Detectives in good standing. It contains a transmitter.

2. DETECTIVE NOTEPAD has 7 features:

a) Locator: Allows you to locate your badge.

b) Calculator: Essential for data analysis.

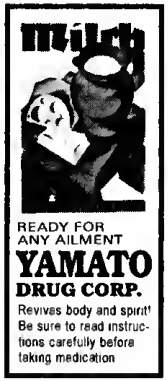
c) Electronic Mail Device: Allows data transmission (including maps and scheduled messages) through regular phone lines.

d) Water Soluble Paper: Destroy the evidence before the enemy finds it!

e) Fountain Pen with Disappearing Ink: Make your secret messages disappear or reappear!

f) Disguise Stickers: Disguise your face instantly using these 10 stickers, includes mustache, mole, scar, and more!

g) Secret Code Card: Code system that can only be read by Steam Detectives. Send the SOS code when in trouble!


Milch
READY FOR ANY AILMENT
YAMATO
DRUG CORP.
Revives body and spirit! Be sure to read instructions carefully before taking medication

With this incredible kit the Steam Detectives can solve any crime! This product was custom made by the Positive Corporation, a company that makes precision tools.

Volume 010 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.

CASE 8, PART 2

LING LING AND STEAM KING

CHAH
CHAH
TCHAH
!!
N--
NARUTAKI!
GET
OUT OF
HERE
!!
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA
BUDDA

KA-
CHUUN
ARR
GH!
KA-
CHUUN
KA-
CHUUN
KA-
CHUUN
KA-
CHUUN
YOUR
COAT
MUST
BE
BULLET
PROOF!
IN
THAT
CASE...

KA-
PROOM
UNN
GH!
RT
SKRR-
AAH!

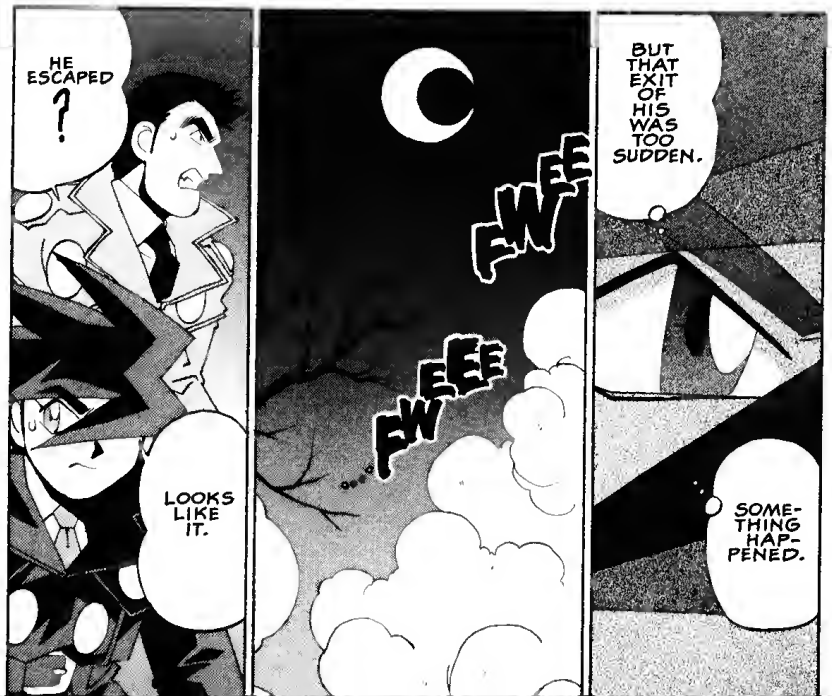
CH
HHT
I'M
IMPRESSED,
BOY,
BUT
YOU'RE
NO
MATCH
FOR
ME.
PERHAPS
YOUR
COURAGE
MERITS AN
APPEARANCE
IN MR.
KING'S
NEXT
NOVEL.
WOO
OO
SH
HEH!

WHAT !?!
I CAN BRING THE MATTER UP WITH HIM IF YOU LIKE!
HOW ARE YOU CONNECTED TO STEAM KING?
THAT'S EASY TO EXPLAIN.
I'M HIS CREATION, OF COURSE!
URK--
OOOSH!

HAH!
!!
KCHLNNG
I-I BELIEVE THAT WILL SATISFY ME FOR TODAY.
FWEEEEEEE
HOWEVER, NEXT TIME WE MEET, NARUTAKI...
PSHAAAAA
PSH
SHAAAA
FWEEEEEEE

NO!
FSHHHAAAAA

FW
EEE
EEEE
URG..


HE ESCAPED ?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
FW
EEE
FW
EEEE
FW
BUT THAT EXIT OF HIS WAS TOO SUDDEN.
SOME-THING HAP-PENED.

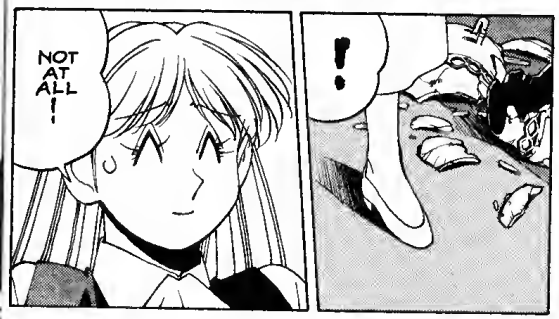
KNOCK
KNOCK
MAY-BE HE'S NOT HOME...
BUT I'M SURE I'M RIGHT ON TIME FOR TODAY'S INTER-VIEW.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

!
PONK
OWW !!
SSU-CHASHH

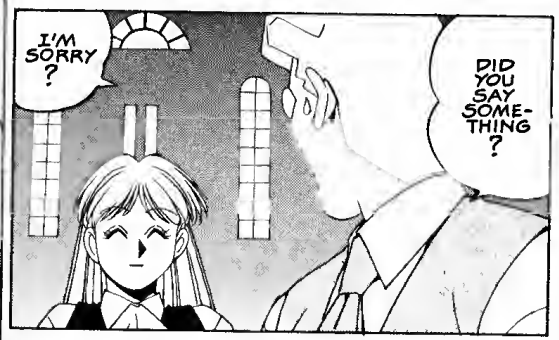
.....
W-- WHO IS IT?
OUCH...
SK EEE EEK

I NEVER EXPECTED YOU WOULD APPLY FOR THE JOB.
THANK YOU FOR SEEING ME. YOU MUST HAVE HAD MANY APPLI-CANTS.
OH, NO...

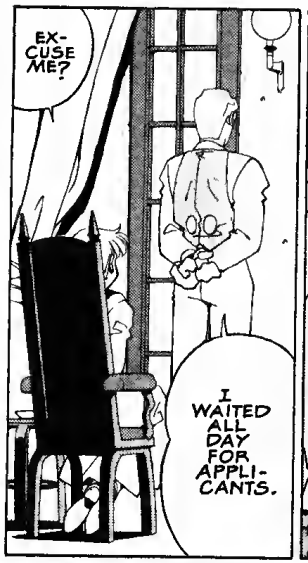
NO ONE CAME, SO I WAS ON THE VERGE OF GIVING UP.
NOT SURPRISING WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT. EVERYONE THINKS I'M A WRITER COME SERIAL KILLER.


NOT AT ALL!
!

THAT CRASHING SOUND. HE MUST HAVE KNOCKED OVER THE VASE.
MR. KING MUST BE SO CLUMSY.


I'M SORRY?
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

CRR KL
CRR KL
CR KL
YOU'RE HIRED!


EX-CUSE ME?
I WAITED ALL DAY FOR APPLI-CANTS.

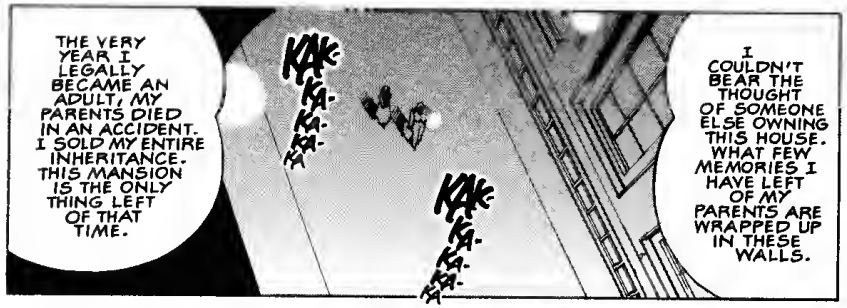
AND IN THE END, NO ONE CAME.
BE-SIDES YOU, OF COURSE.

BUT EVEN IF I HAD AN ARMY OF APPLI-CANTS, I STILL WOULD HAVE HIRED YOU.

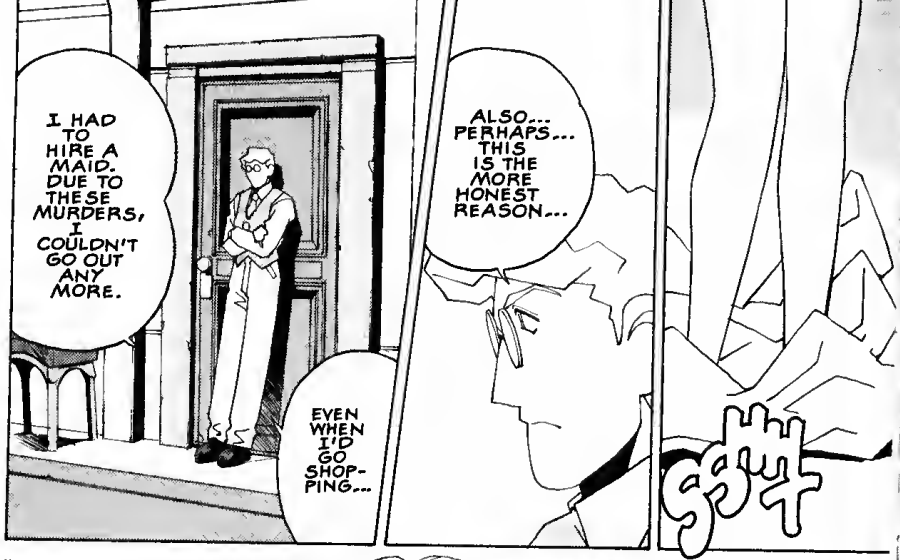
MR. KING!!

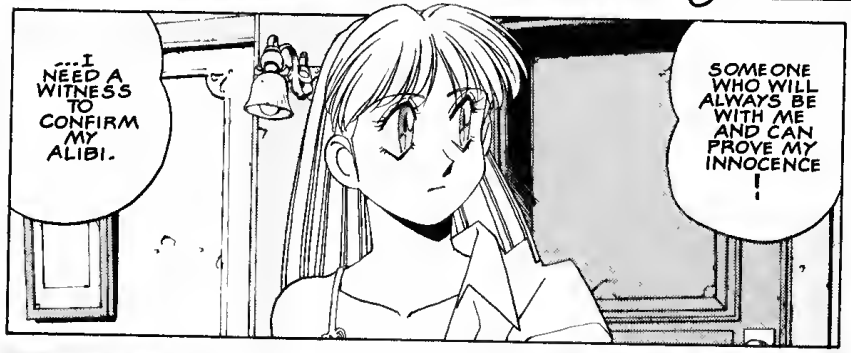
I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOM.
O-OKAY!

KAK-KA-KA-KA-KA-KA
EVER SINCE I WAS A BOY, I WOULD BE HOLED UP IN MY ROOM, READING BOOKS.
MY PARENTS RAN A TRADING COMPANY AND A COAL MINE, SO THEY WERE TOO BUSY TO LOOK AFTER ME.
I WAS ALWAYS ALONE.
BOOKS WERE THE THINGS THAT FILLED MY SOUL.
ALL THOSE ADVENTURES AND LOVE STORIES CAPTIVATED ME.


THE VERY YEAR I LEGALLY BECAME AN ADULT, MY PARENTS DIED IN AN ACCIDENT. I SOLD MY ENTIRE INHERITANCE. THIS MANSION IS THE ONLY THING LEFT OF THAT TIME.
KAK-KA-KA-KA-KA
I COULDN'T BEAR THE THOUGHT OF SOMEONE ELSE OWNING THIS HOUSE. WHAT FEW MEMORIES I HAVE LEFT OF MY PARENTS ARE WRAPPED UP IN THESE WALLS.

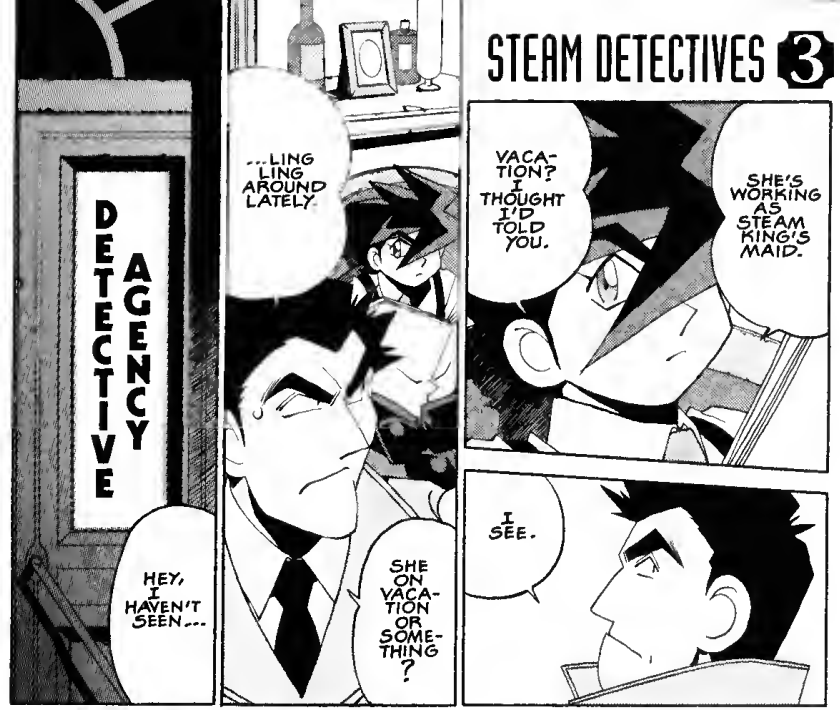
AND MOSTLY, THIS IS WHERE MY BOOKS ARE.
THOSE BOOKS GUIDED ME DOWN THE PATH TO BECOME A NOVELIST!
MR. KING!!


I HAD TO HIRE A MAID. DUE TO THESE MURDERS, I COULDN'T GO OUT ANY MORE.
EVEN WHEN I'D GO SHOPPING...
ALSO... PERHAPS... THIS IS THE MORE HONEST REASON...
SIGH


...I NEED A WITNESS TO CONFIRM MY ALIBI.
SOMEONE WHO WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME AND CAN PROVE MY INNOCENCE!

THANK YOU FOR COMING, LING LING.
GULP!
I THINK WITH YOU...
I'M READY.
KA-CHAK

I CONSIDER IT AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU, MR. KING.
OH...
...YOU'RE BEAUTIFUL.
HM ?
OH-- OH, NO, THE HONOR IS MINE!
NOW SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK AT THAT LEG YOU BASHED AGAINST THE VASE?
URK !!


DETECTIVE AGENCY
HEY, I HAVEN'T SEEN...
...LING LING AROUND LATELY.
SHE ON VACATION OR SOMETHING ?
VACATION? I THOUGHT I'D TOLD YOU.
SHE'S WORKING AS STEAM KING'S MAID.
I SEE.

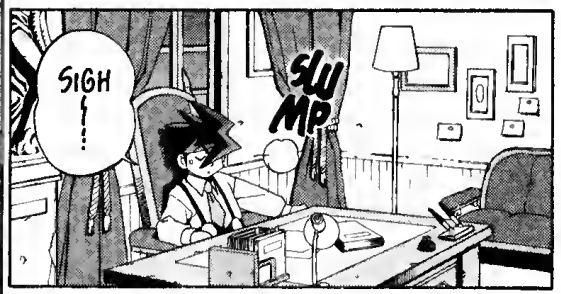
WHAT !?!
BOIN
NNN
NGG
STEAM KING'S MAID !??
THEY'RE NOT SLEEPING UNDER THE SAME ROOF, ARE THEY?
HOW COULD YOU !?!
IT'S HER JOB.
GRR RRR--

I KNOW THAT THE EMPEROR OF STEAM IS STEAM KING!
GRR
GRRR
GRRR
GRRR
WELL, WE DON'T REALLY KNOW YET, DO WE?
I KNOW I'M RIGHT BECAUSE I'M RIGHT!
GR

YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT, STEAM KING!
I'LL SAVE LING LING FROM YOUR DIABOLICAL CLUTCHES!

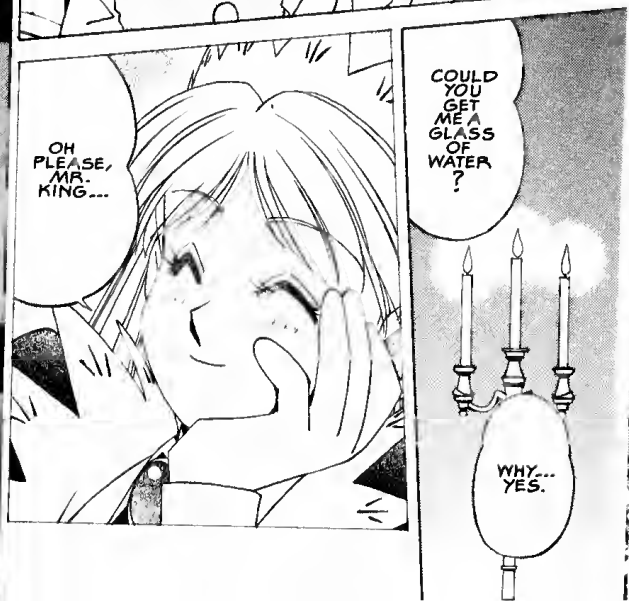
LATER, NARUTAKI!
WHAMM

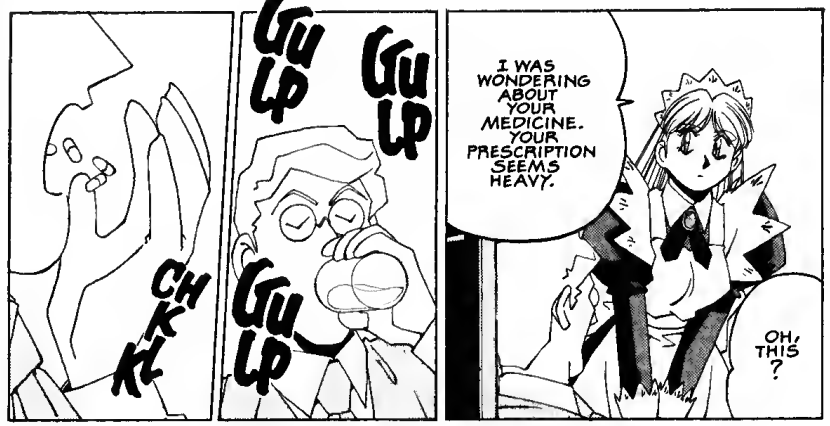
GRR RRR--
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
I'M GOING TO CATCH THAT VILLAIN! I'LL STAKE MY CAREER ON IT!


SIGH!
SLUMP

THANK YOU.
AS ALWAYS, YOUR DINNER WAS DELICIOUS.

IF YOUR COOKING STAYS THIS GOOD, I'M AFRAID I'LL GET FAT.


OH PLEASE, MR. KING...
COULD YOU GET ME A GLASS OF WATER?
WHY... YES.


CHKK
GULP
GULP
GULP
I WAS WONDERING ABOUT YOUR MEDICINE. YOUR PRESCRIPTION SEEMS HEAVY.
OH, THIS?

WRITING NOVELS PUTS ME UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE.
I BEGAN TO GET INSOMNIA A FEW YEARS AGO. EVEN WHEN I FELL ASLEEP I'D HAVE TERRIBLE NIGHTMARES.
SO I'VE BEEN TAKING THIS PRESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL SEDATIVES.

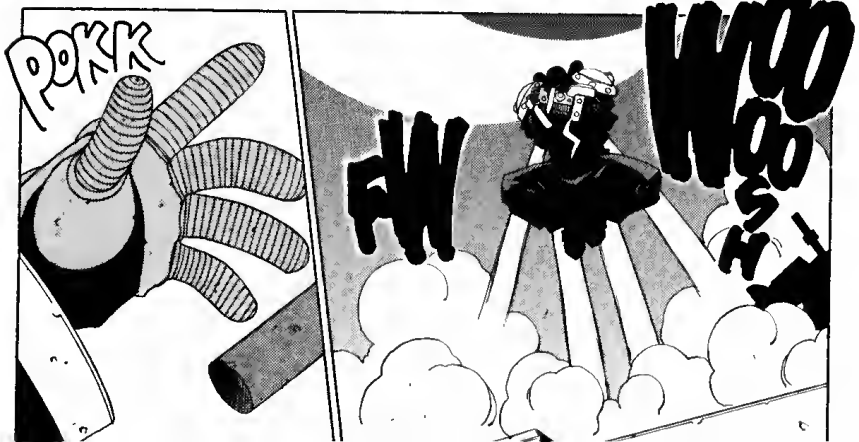
I SEE.
BUT IT'S NOT GOOD TO RELY TOO HEAVILY ON MEDICATION.
THAT'S TRUE...
I CAN'T IGNORE MEDICAL ADVICE FROM A NURSE, CAN I?
THANK YOU, MR. KING.

STEAM NOVEL XXII
EMPEROR OF STEAM III
THE NOVELTY MURDER
BY=STEAM KING
ILLUSTRATION=KIA ASAMIYA
STEAM NOVEL
Steam King's new novel, in stores today! The Emperor of Steam III: The Novelty Murder
Mr. King makes an appearance in the novel! He battles the Emperor of Steam!
First, the maid at King's residence is killed. Then the diabolical Emperor of Steam attacks King himself!!
Mr. King at a press conference.
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
THIS IS MY WAY TO CHALLENGE THIS EMPEROR OF STEAM!
IT SHOULD PROVE THAT I AM NOT GUILTY OF THE MURDERS!!
FLASH
FLASH
I KNOW I'M A PRIME SUSPECT...
...SO POLICE WILL BE ON HAND TO WITNESS MY INNOCENCE!!

.....
KR RR RSSH
YAA AHH HH!!
!!

WELL DONE, YOU WIT-LESS LACKEYS !!
HOWEVER, AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE ELIMIN-ATED THE FINAL VICTIM OF THE EMPEROR OF STEAM III!
FSSSS HHH H
Y-- YOU BAS-TARD !!

G-- GET HIM !!
YES, SIR !!


POKK
HH
WOOOSH

H--HE CAN FLY!?
TOH
ARR RGH!
FW
OOOSH
NOW I'LL CREATE AN EPILOGUE TO THIS MURDER CASE.
K RRRRSH
KRR SSHH
BE SURE TO BUY THE NEXT EXCITING INSTALL-MENT!!
BZZT
BZZ
BZ

KKK KKLL
RR
AA
AARR RGH!!
SKEECH
AM I TOO LATE!?!
FW
EEEEEE
EEEEEE
EEEEEE

HE'S ONLY UNCONSCIOUS.
SO THIS IS THE DETECTIVE THAT HAS BEEN HOUNDING ME...
BUT I CAN REMEDY THAT.
VEEEN
HA HA HA HA!!
PWOSH
SH
FSSSHH
FSH
KA
NAN

WHAT !?!
CHONK
KLTTA
KLTTA
TUMP
IT'S-- YOU !!
NARU-TAKI !!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOU !
THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE INTERFERED WITH ME, CHILD!
KWON
YOUR MURDER SPREE ENDS NOW !
SKFT
HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAA. FASCINATING.

FWOOSH
YOU SHALL REGRET YOU EVER SAW ME, WORM!

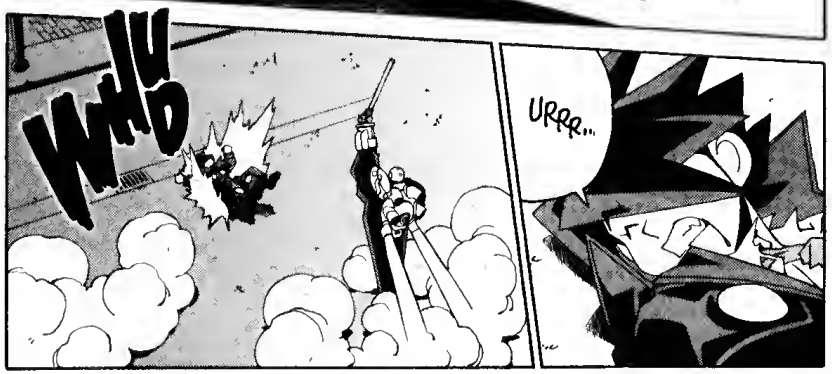
GIVE ME YOUR BEST SHOT!
KSHSH

KRA
KOW
SSSHSHHH
URGH!
IT-- IT MELTED!?!

OF COURSE. YOUR FLASH-LIGHT IS LIKE MELTED BUTTER BEFORE MY HEAT STICK.
PREPARE TO DIE, NARUTAKI!!

KU-SHHHH
!!
THIS IS LING LING'S--
RNG!
YOU GET DIS-TRACTED IN A BATTLE FOR YOUR LIFE!
A FATAL MISTAKE, NARUTAKI!!
NO--
FWOOSH
OOSH

THR-
RAH


WHHD
URRR...

HOWEVER TALENTED A DETECTIVE YOU ARE, YOU'RE STILL A BOY!
A SUPER MAN COULDN'T DEFEAT ME!
I AM THE ONLY ONE!
THE SUPER MAN!!
I, THE EMPEROR OF STEAM...
...AM THE WORLD'S ONLY SUPER MAN!!
HA HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!
GWHOOOOOO

UR...
N--
NARU-TAKI...
FWEEEE
FWEEEE
NA...
RU...
THUNK

I'M SORRY!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME, LING LING!

HMM? FOR WHAT?
I MADE YOU A CHARACTER IN MY LATEST BOOK.
I EVEN KILLED OFF YOUR CHARACTER.
I COULDN'T RESIST IT YOU'VE BEEN SUCH AN INFLUENCE ON ME.
OH, IT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT.
WHAT?

YOU'RE MAKING A FAN VERY HAPPY!
I'M A CHARACTER IN ONE OF STEAM KING'S NOVELS...!

THANK YOU, LING LING.
YOU'RE THE KINDEST PERSON I KNOW.
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR!

FWEEEEE
FWEEEEE

OH! I SHOULD PREPARE MR. KING'S MEDICATION AND WATER FOR TOMORROW...
...BEFORE I GO TO BED TONIGHT.
KACHAK
SHHH

CH KKL
CARE-FUL... DON'T WAKE HIM UP.

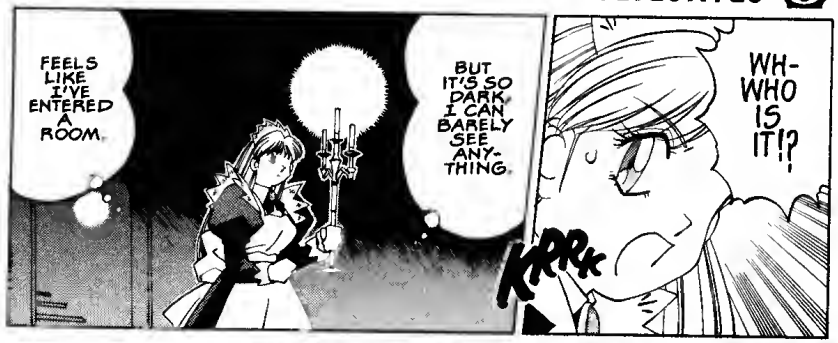
PHEW~!
IT'S TIME FOR BED. I'VE GOT AN EARLY MORNING TOMOR-ROW.

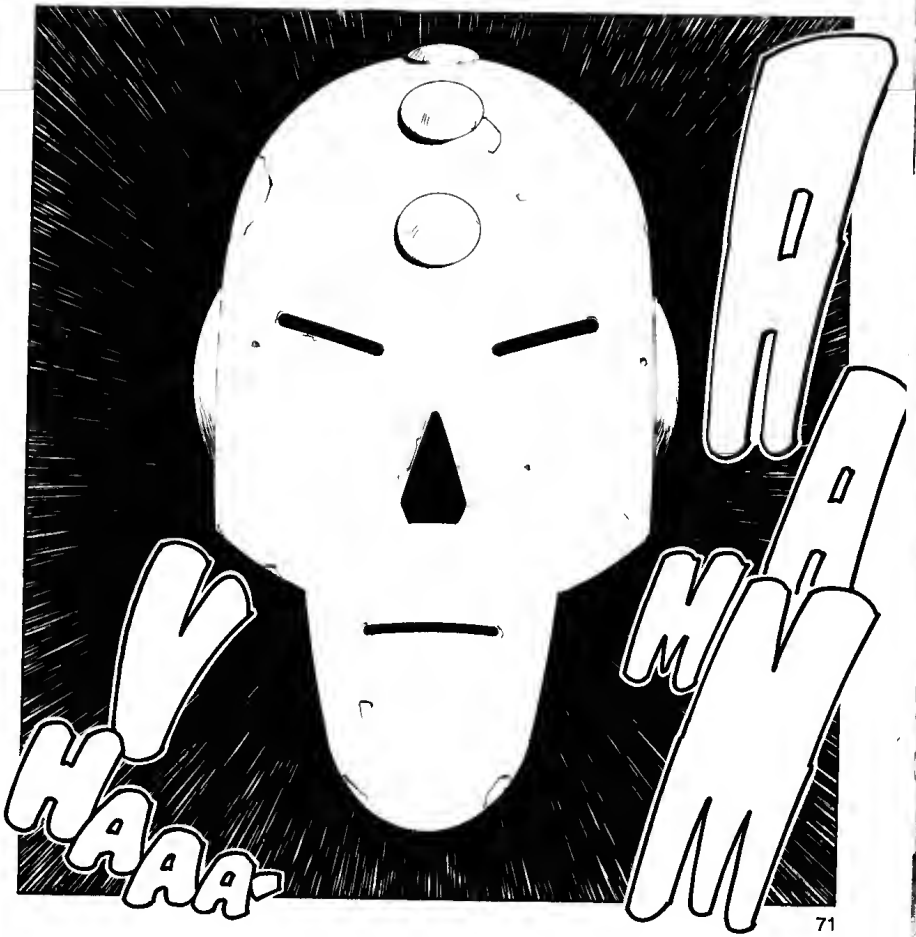
HM ??

WHAT'S THAT DOOR... ??
I NEVER NOTICED IT UNTIL NOW.

IS IT A SECRET ENTRANCE INTO A HIDDEN PASSAGE ?

KAK KAK KAK KAK KAK
KAK KAK KAK KAK KAK
IT'S KIND OF SPOOKY.


FEELS LIKE I'VE ENTERED A ROOM.
BUT IT'S SO DARK, I CAN BARELY SEE ANY-THING.
WH-WHO IS IT!?
KRRK


HAAAA-
HAAAA-

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

THE MYSTERY BEHIND MEGA-BEST-SELLING AUTHOR, STEAM KING!

CENTER OF THE POLICE INVESTIGATION, MR. STEAM KING

Most readers are aware of the controversial serial murders occurring in the City. The murderer allegedly refers to himself as Emperor of Steam, the protagonist of the horror novels written by the best-selling author Steam King (28). Local authorities have been investigating the connection between the Emperor of Steam and Mr. Steam King. Mr. King denies any knowledge of the murders, insisting that the police suspicions are unfounded.

Mystery 1: HIDDEN PRIVATE LIFE

Born into a wealthy family which owned trading and mining companies, Mr. King enjoyed a privileged childhood. Both of his parents died when King was 20. He currently lives alone. After the deaths of his parents, King dedicated himself to his writing, shunning contact with the outside world.

Mystery 2: THE WRITER, STEAM KING

King published his first work at the age of 22 with a short story in a pulp science fiction magazine. Using over 50 pseudonyms, King wrote for many magazines. He published books in a wide range of genres including science fiction, literary non-fiction and criticism.

Mystery 3: THE POLICE INVESTIGATION

The police have advocated the following three theories:
A. A plot for revenge against Mr. King. B: A fan obsessed with King's work. C: A normal mental-case murder case.
The mass media has been pursuing rumors that King himself is the culprit, but this theory seems implausible in light of his reputation as a well established author. The police will be requesting a second interview with Mr. King.

KING RESIDENCE

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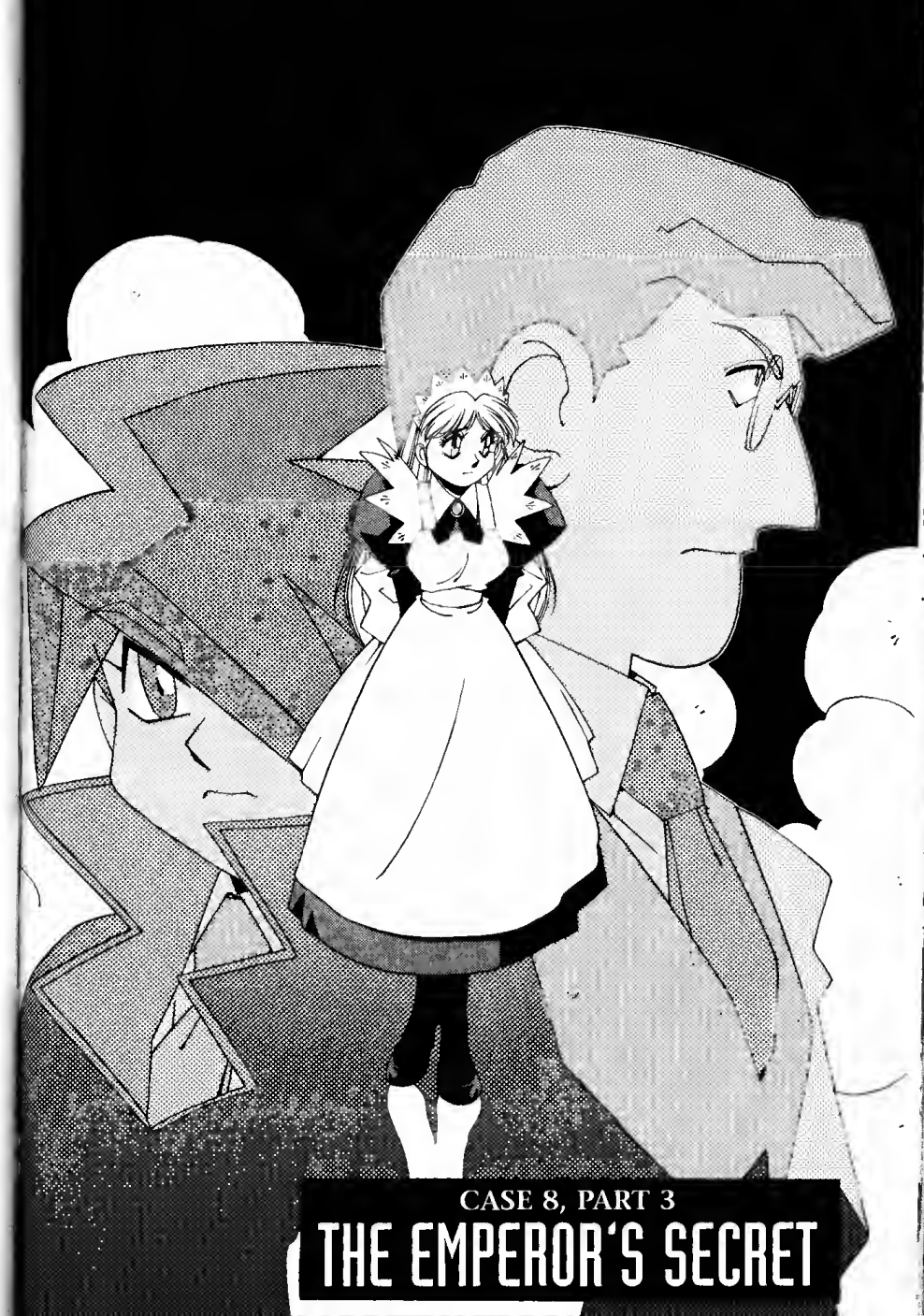
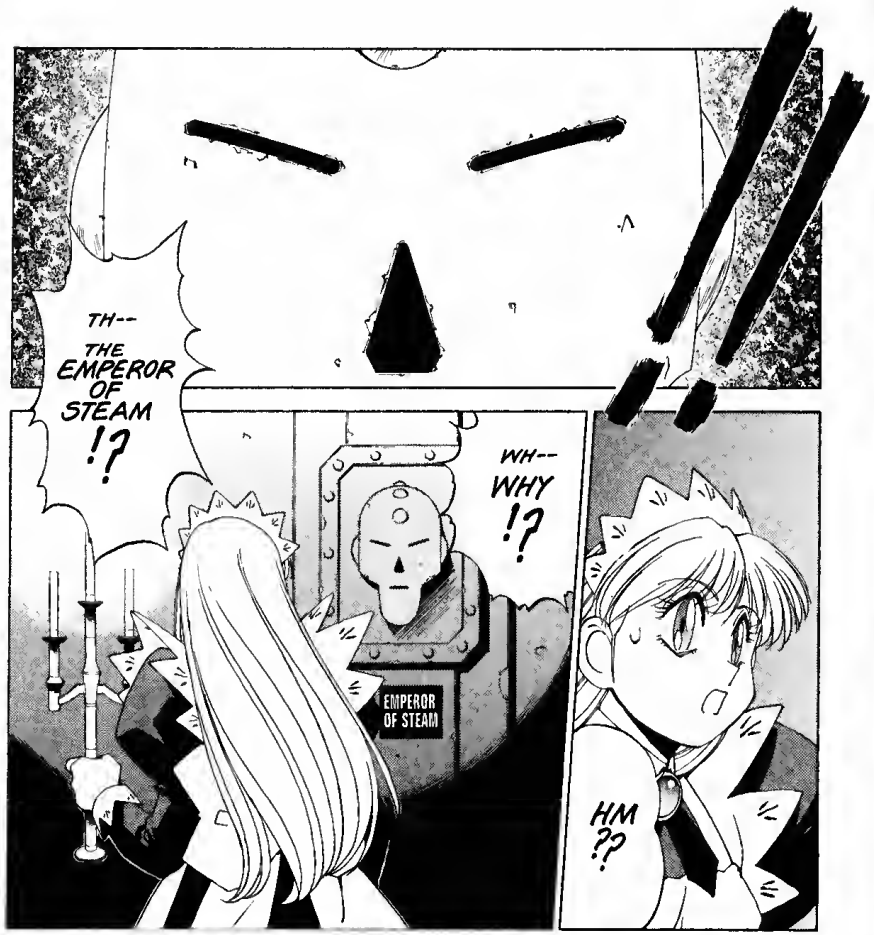
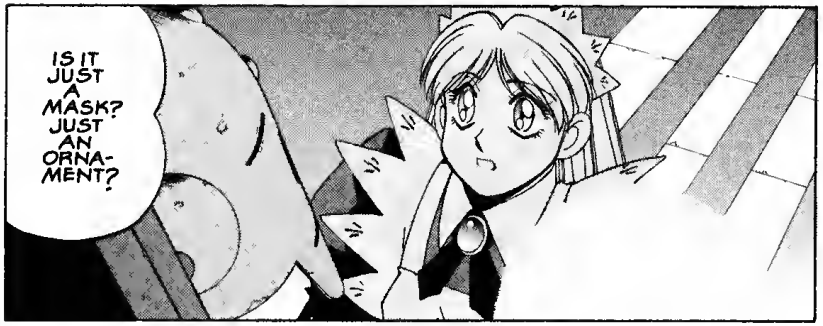


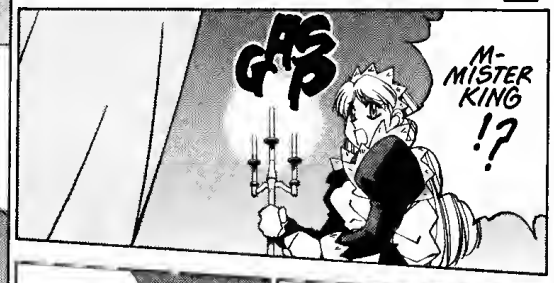
CASE 8, PART 3

THE EMPEROR'S SECRET


TH--
THE EMPEROR OF STEAM !?
WH--
WHY !?
EMPEROR OF STEAM
HM ??

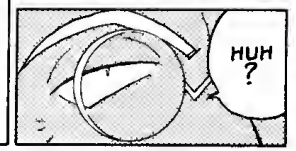

IS IT JUST A MASK? JUST AN ORNA-MENT?

THAT'S RIGHT. IT'S JUST AN ORNA-MENT.
BA-BUMP !!

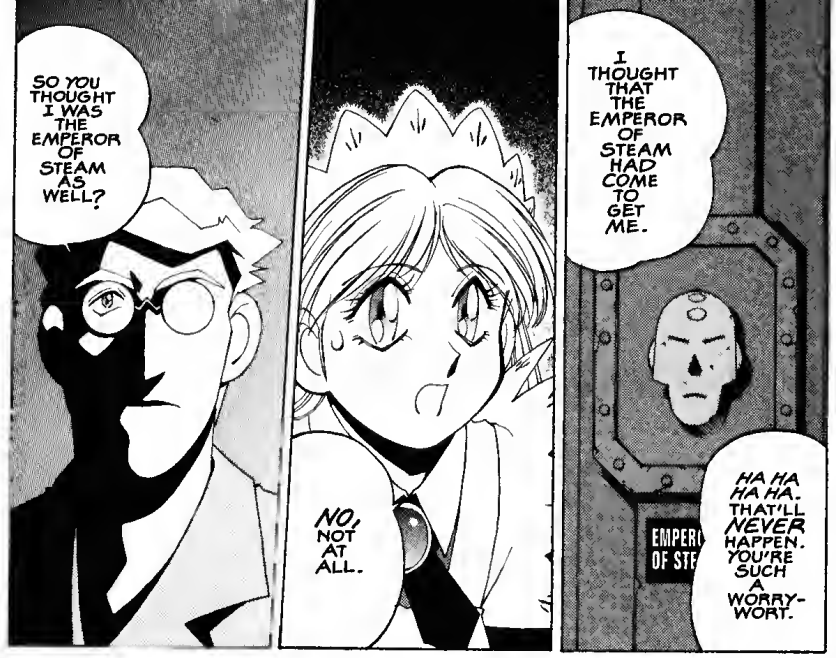

GASP
M-MISTER KING !?

WHAT'S WRONG, LING LING? IT'S PAST MID-NIGHT.
YAAAAAHN

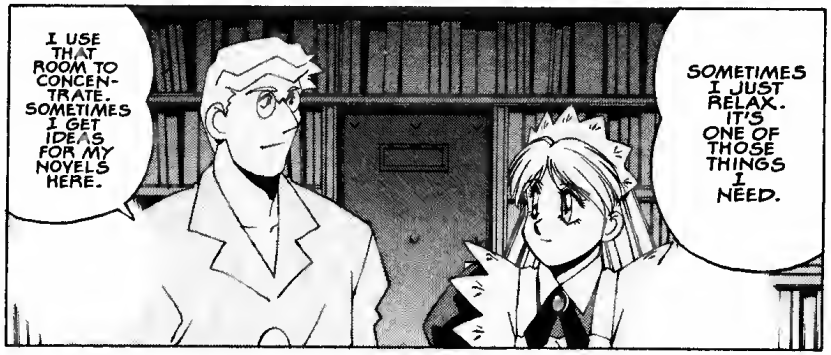
MR. KING...
PHEW


HUH ?

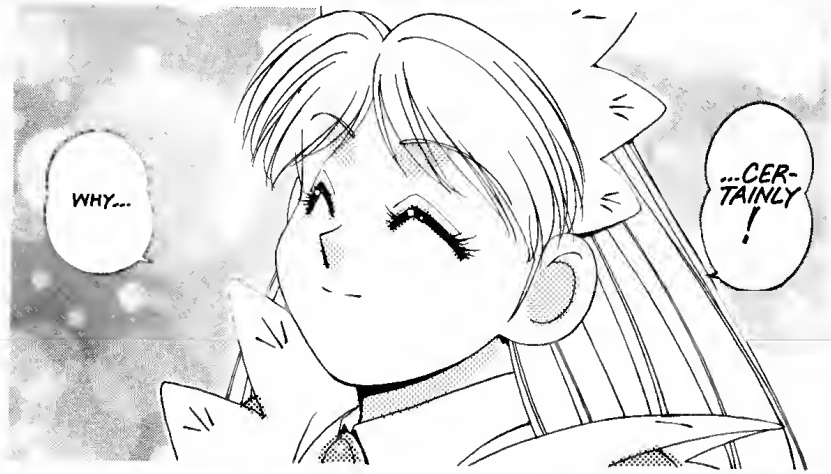
DID THIS SCARE YOU? MY ILLUSTRATOR GAVE THIS PLAQUE MASK TO ME AS A GIFT.
EMPEROR OF STEAM
I THOUGHT IT WAS...

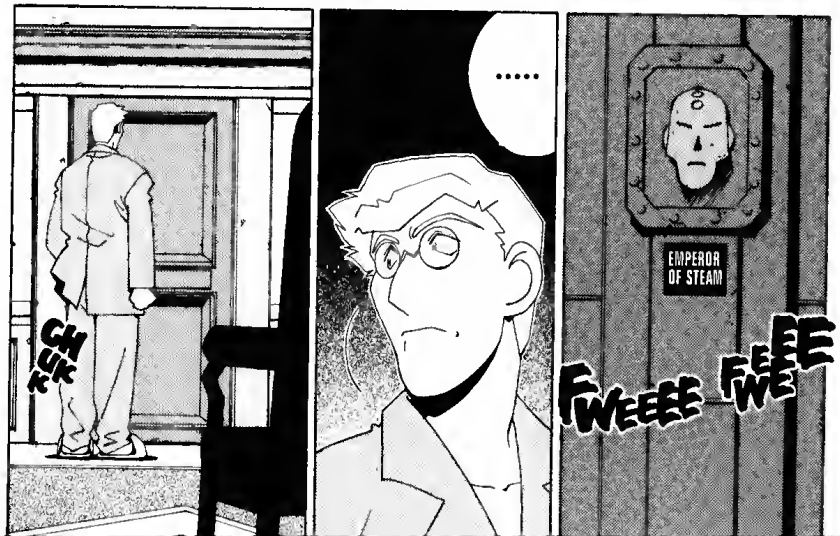

SO YOU THOUGHT I WAS THE EMPEROR OF STEAM AS WELL?
NO, NOT AT ALL.
I THOUGHT THAT THE EMPEROR OF STEAM HAD COME TO GET ME.
HA HA HA HA. THAT'LL NEVER HAPPEN. YOU'RE SUCH A WORRY-WORT.

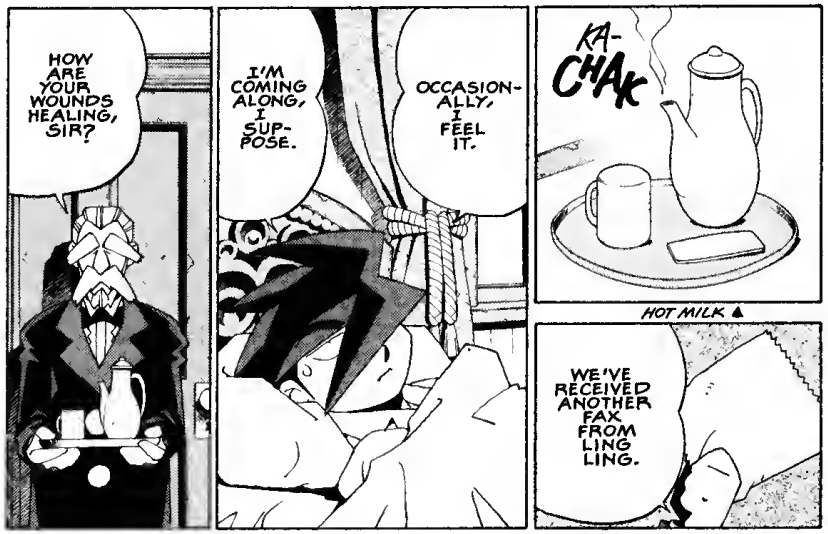
KA CHU CHAK


I USE THAT ROOM TO CONCENTRATE. SOMETIMES I GET IDEAS FOR MY NOVELS HERE.
SOMETIMES I JUST RELAX. IT'S ONE OF THOSE THINGS I NEED.

GOOD-NIGHT THEN, LING LING.
GOOD-NIGHT, MR. KING.
OH, BY THE WAY... ...COULD YOU MAKE TEA INSTEAD OF COFFEE TOMORROW MORNING?


WHY...
...CERTAINLY!

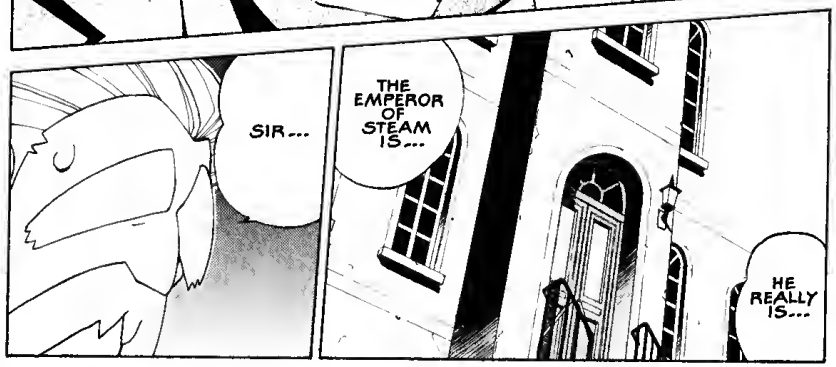

CHUK K
.....
EMPEROR OF STEAM
FWEEEE FEEEE FWE


HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS HEALING, SIR?
I'M COMING ALONG, I SUP-POSE.
OCCASION-ALLY, I FEEL IT.
KA-CHAK
HOT MILK ▲
WE'VE RECEIVED ANOTHER FAX FROM LING LING.

A FAX FROM LING LING...
...FROM LING LING.
SIR...?

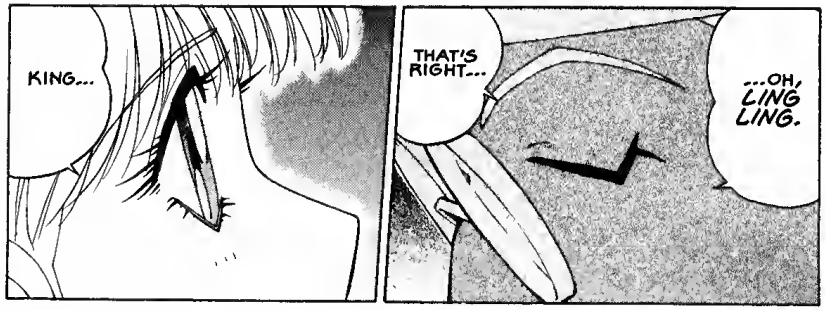
GASH
!!
OH, NO! LING LING!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE LYING AROUND!
AR GH!
SHAAN
SIR, YOU MUSTN'T!
URR RGH...

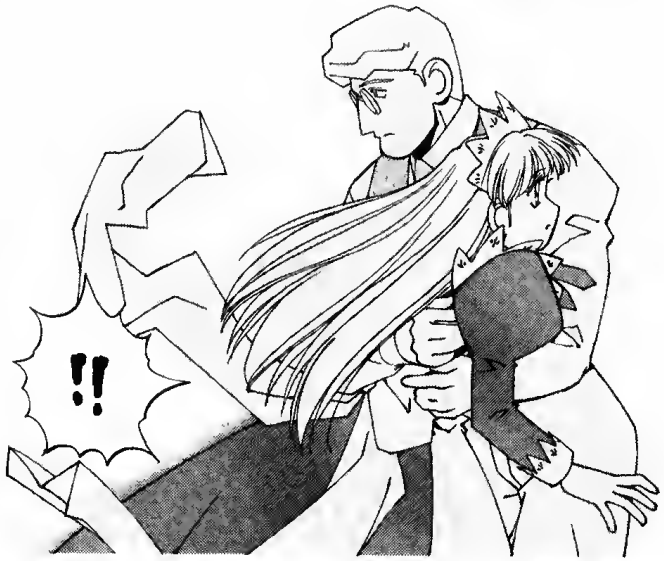
LING LING--
LING LING'S IN TROUBLE--
I HAVE TO GO HELP HER.


SIR...
THE EMPEROR OF STEAM IS...
HE REALLY IS...

WHOOOSSSHH
I'M SPEECHLESS! WHAT'S THIS, LING LING?
IT LOOKS WONDERFUL!
WE'RE CELEBRATING, MR. KING!
...I HEARD THAT THE EMPEROR OF STEAM III JUST SOLD A MILLION COPIES.
CONGRATULATIONS.
THANK YOU, LING LING.
KOOKOOP

LING LING...
YES, WHAT IS IT, SIR?
EXCUSE ME, SIR?
STOP CALLING ME "SIR."
B-BUT...
JUST CALL ME KING, ALL RIGHT?
CAN YOU STOP THAT?
CAN YOU DO THAT FROM NOW ON...
...LING LING?


KING...
THAT'S RIGHT...
...OH, LING LING.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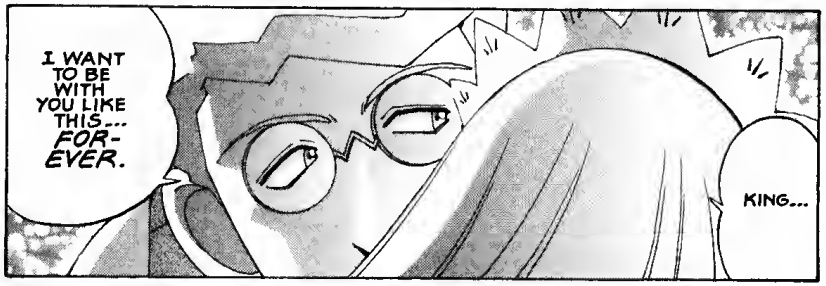
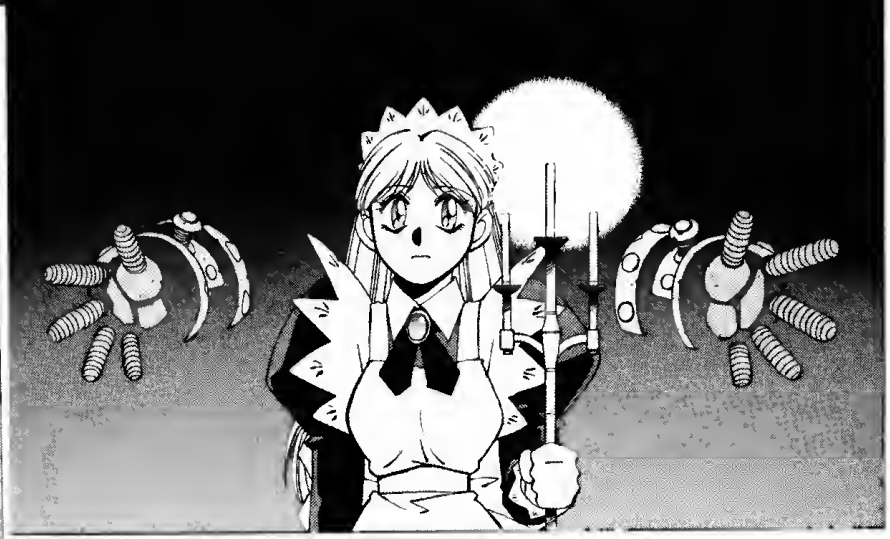
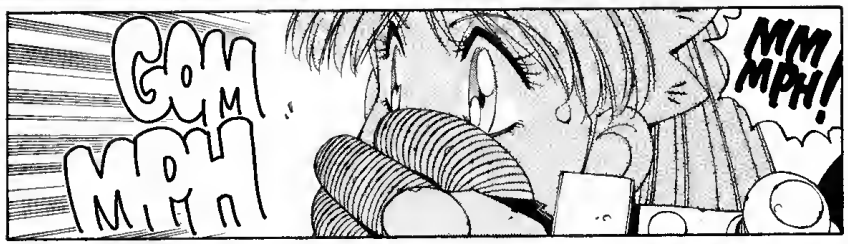

I WANT TO BE WITH YOU LIKE THIS... FOR-EVER.
KING...

.....
WHOOSH
GOOD-NIGHT.
GOOD-NIGHT, LING LING.
TAKK
TAKK
.....
HA HA HA..




GOM
MPH
MMMPH!

KAKRCH
HMMMPH!!
!!

IT-- IT'S THE EMPEROR OF STEAM !?
KRICH
UR--
HELP !!
HELP ME, SOMEONE! KING!
OTCH
SHH~
B-B-BUT WHY HERE !?

HA HA HAA. NO ONE CAN SAVE YOU! NOT EVEN KING !!
MPHHH!
GAGHH

VR
RR
MM
KR
RSH
SKR
CH
LING
LING
!
TMP
TMP
SHE'S
IN
DANGER
!!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
FWEE

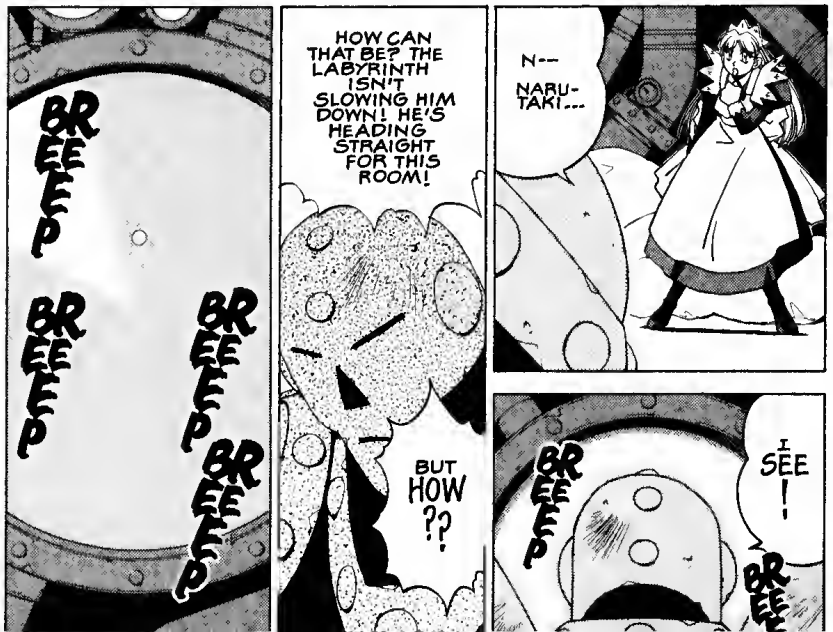
WH-
WHY
ARE
YOU
DOING
THIS
!?
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
INSIDE
KING'S
HOUSE
!?
THE PLOT
TO THE
NOVEL
"EMPEROR
OF STEAM
IIII" HAS
BEGUN!
SO NOW
I MUST
KILL
YOU!
BE-
SIDES...
THIS
IS
MY
HOUSE
!
HERE
IS
WHERE
I
WAS
BORN
!
I WAS
BORN
INSIDE
THIS
UNDER-
GROUND
LABY-
RINTH
!
IN
THE
BOWELS
OF
KING'S
HOUSE
!

YAAA AHH!
GWOOGH
.....
ROCH
CHAKIK
N-NO...
KWOOGH
KRRR-
CHA!

KA A
SHOOM
LING LING!
I'M COMING TO SAVE YOU!!
TMP
CHAK
WHEEYOO
WHAT!? THE SECURITY ALARM JUST WENT OFF!
THERE IS A TRESPASSER IN THE MANSION!
!!
NARUTAKI!?!
NARUTAKI HAS COME TO RESCUE YOU!
....

HAS HE RE-COVERED FROM HIS WOUNDS ALREADY !?
I UNDER-ESTIMATED HIS STRENGTH! BUT...
HE'LL NEVER MAKE HIS WAY INTO THIS ROOM !!
HE'LL NEVER FIND ME IN MY UNDER-GROUND LABY-RINTH!!

WHEE YOO
WHEE YOO
WHEE YOO
WHEE YOO
.....


BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
BREEEP
HOW CAN THAT BE? THE LABYRINTH ISN'T SLOWING HIM DOWN! HE'S HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THIS ROOM!
BUT HOW ??
N-- NARU-TAKI...
BREEEP
I SEE !
BREEEP

IT'S YOU !!
KIAMM
KYA AAA AHH!
WAK

THAT'S...
...THAT'S A HOMING DEVICE !
!!
TINK
STEAM DETECTIVE
ADVENTURE, ACTION, BOOT, STEAM
HA HA HA HA HA HA!

KRR
RUNCH
SHALL WE FINISH THIS !??
NO...
NO BOY DETECTIVE RESCUED YOU IN THE NOVEL !!
DIE, LING LING !!
FWOOSH
NO!!
BL
AM

KRA-
KEEE
AARGH!
KOH-
CHANG
!!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LING LING !?
KRR-
IS SHI
NARU-TAKI !!
IT'S OVER EMPEROR OF STEAM !!
OR SHOULD I SAY... STEAM KING !?!
KLONK

CLEVER DEDUC-TION, NARUTAKI.

NO!
THAT'S A LIE!!
IT WAS SIMPLE. YOU LEFT THE CLUE BEHIND YOURSELF.

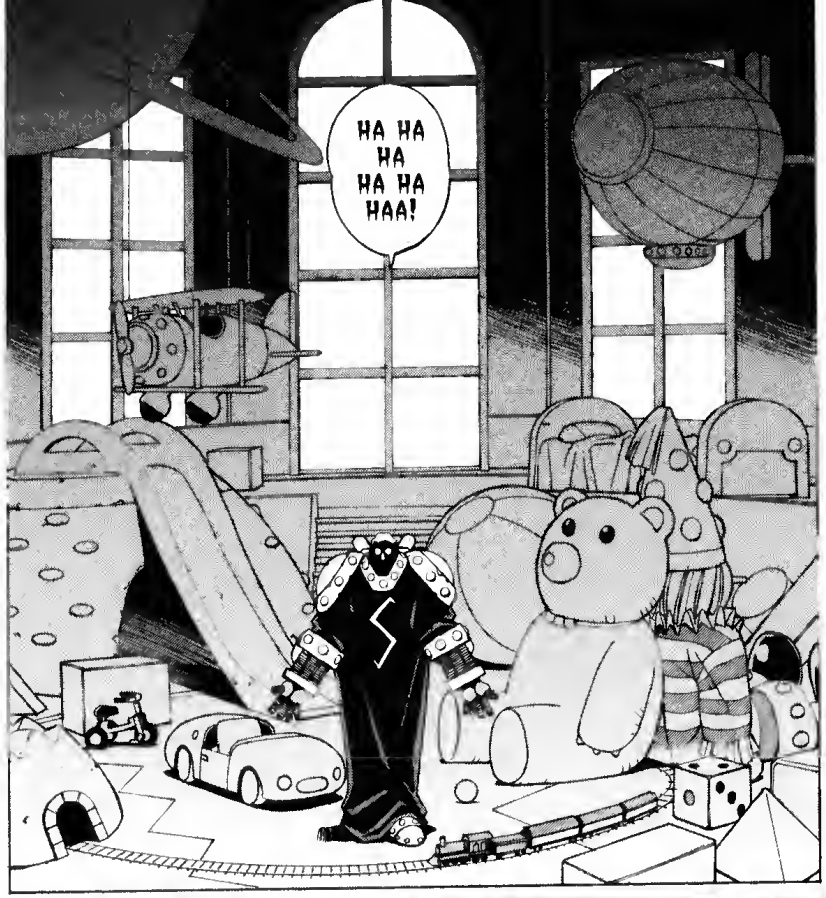
SEE?
WHY, THAT'S--
--LING LING'S SPECIAL ICE PACK FOR SPRAINS.
ALL OF LING LING'S MEDICAL SUPPLIES HAVE THE LING LING BRAND ON THEM.
SEE THE MARK FOR YOUR-SELF.
LING LING BRAND
SAFETY, RESCUE, MEDICAL, TREATMENT, BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY FROM STEAM

YOU DROPPED THIS AFTER OUR SECOND FIGHT.
THE MOMENT I SAW IT I KNEW WHO YOU WERE.
.....

LING LING'S GAVE ME REGULAR REPORTS...
---SO I KNEW SHE USED THIS ICE PACK ON MR. KING'S FOOT INJURY.
HA HA HA HA HA. I SEE. BUT YOU'RE ONLY PARTIALLY CORRECT!

WHAT'S THAT ??
I AM THE EMPEROR OF STEAM...
I AM NOT STEAM KING !!
FSSHH
HHH
SSSHH

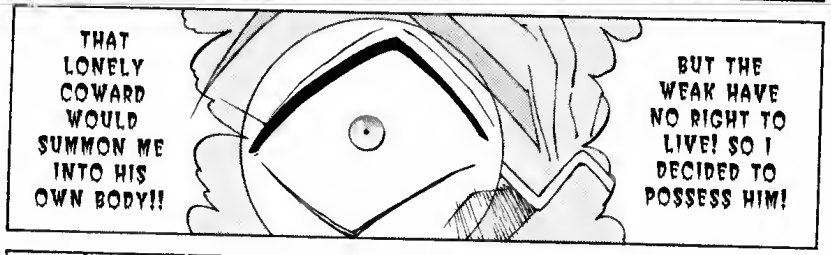
GAH-
HOO


HA HA HA HA HA HAA!

WHAT IS THIS ROOM...

IN THIS ROOM, KING ESCAPED FROM REALITY.
HERE HE WOULD HIDE AND CONSOLE HIMSELF, REGRESSING INTO CHILD-HOOD.

STEAM KING WAS A WEAKLING! IN THE END, HE HAD TO RELY ON DRUGS TO SUSTAIN HIMSELF!
I WAS BORN FROM KING'S IMAGINATION!! WHEN KING WANTED TO BECOME STRONG, HE CALLED ON ME!!


THAT LONELY COWARD WOULD SUMMON ME INTO HIS OWN BODY!!
BUT THE WEAK HAVE NO RIGHT TO LIVE! SO I DECIDED TO POSSESS HIM!

THAT WAY, STEAM KING WOULD BE REBORN WITH STRENGTH !!
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, KING!? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED !?!
HA HAA HAA HA HA!
.....
I WILL BE ABSO-LUTE EVIL !!
AND SOON, THIS CITY WILL BE MINE!
NO IT WON'T !!
CHK

NO, NARU-TAKI !!

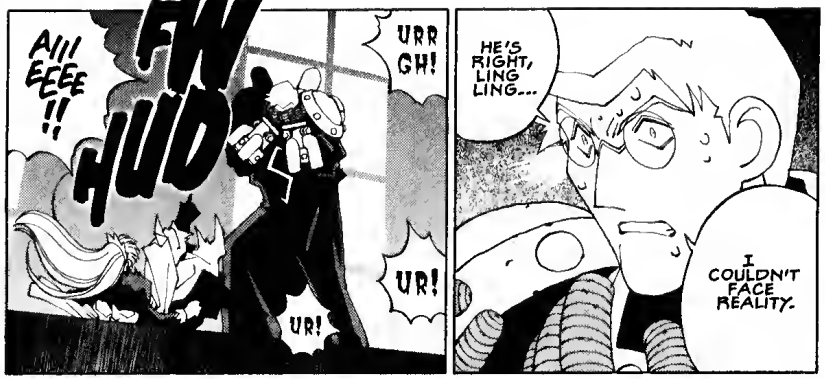
LING LING...
.....

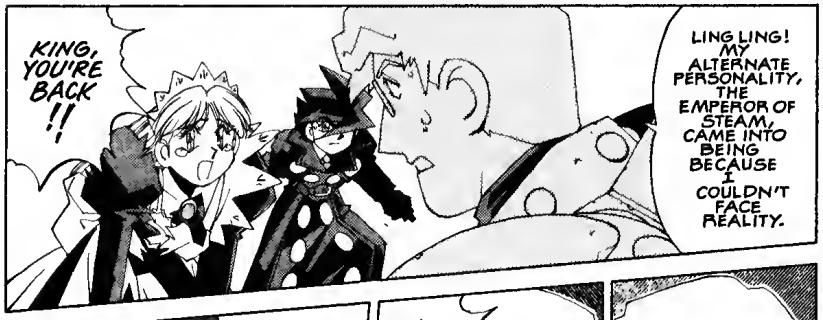
WOH
OH

HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!! HOW AMUSING! THIS WOMAN IS IN LOVE WITH KING!!
IF YOU DON'T MIND KILLING HER, GO RIGHT AHEAD!! SHOOT ME, NARUTAKI!!! BWA HA HA HA HAA!!

!!
HM !?
KING, YOU CAN HEAR ME, RIGHT !??
YOU'RE NOT A COWARD! YOU'RE NOT ALONE! I'M HERE WITH YOU!
AND... AND...
WH- WHY YOU--
LING LING !
...WHAT ABOUT YOUR FANS!? YOU HAVE OVER A MILLION READERS WHO LOVE YOU! YOU'RE NOT ALONE AT ALL!!
YOU'RE JUST SUFFERING FROM A SLIGHT SICKNESS!
SICKNESSES CAN BE CURED!
I CAN...

...I CAN CURE YOU !
SO PLEASE... PLEASE...
COME BACK TO ME, KING.
PLEASE...
UR RRR RRR RR!
GUNG
AIEE EEE!
LING LING !!
FISH
W/
BE QUIET! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD BY NOW!
STOP IT, EMPEROR OF STEAM!
TMP TMP
TMP TMP
AR RG!
UR GH!

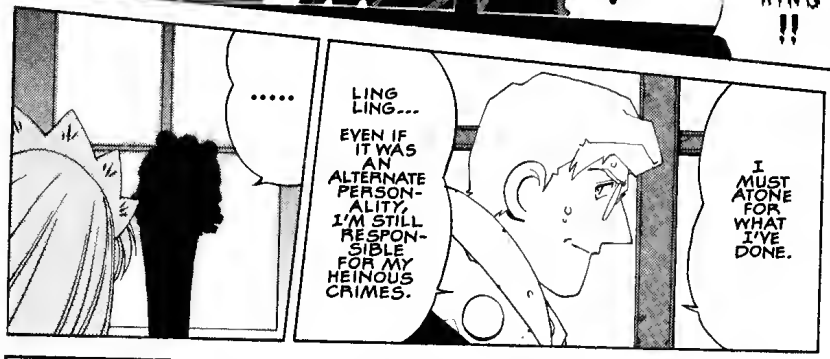

AIII EEEE !!
FWHUD
URR GH!
UR!
UR!
HE'S RIGHT, LING LING...
I COULDN'T FACE REALITY.


KING, YOU'RE BACK !!
LING LING! MY ALTERNATE PERSONALITY, THE EMPEROR OF STEAM, CAME INTO BEING BECAUSE I COULDN'T FACE REALITY.

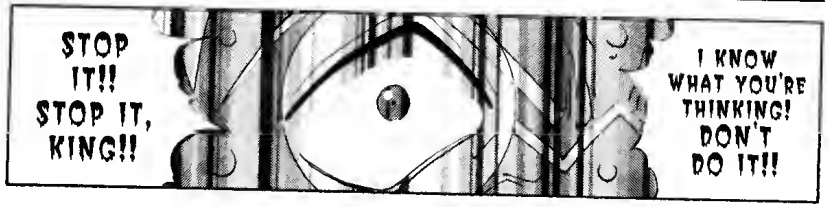
SHUT UP, KING! I'M DOING EVERYTHING YOU DREAMED OF DOING !!
I'M THE REAL KING !!
NO! ONLY I AM KING!

I'M GOING TO DESTROY YOU, EMPEROR OF STEAM!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO!?
WOM
WOM
ANSWER ME, KING !!


.....
LING LING... EVEN IF IT WAS AN ALTERNATE PERSONALITY, I'M STILL RESPONSIBLE FOR MY HEINOUS CRIMES.
I MUST ATONE FOR WHAT I'VE DONE.

THESE LAST TWO MONTHS WERE THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF MY LIFE. THANK YOU, LING LING.
I-I LOVED...


STOP IT!! STOP IT, KING!!
I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING! DON'T DO IT!!

KRRRRRSH
KING!
NO, LING LING!
KING...
FSSSHHH
KRRRRRSH
KING!
FARE-WELL, LING LING...
DON'T!
NOOOOOOOO!!
EWEEEEEEE
FWEEEEEEE

SEVERAL DAYS LATER...
SSSHHHH
FOR SALE
SSSHHHH
.....
KING...
FW
WOOSSHH

SPLASH
SSSHHHH
.....
KING...
I LOVED YOU, TOO...
SSSRRRT

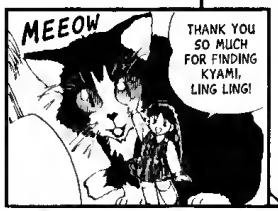
STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

LING LING SOLVES THE MYSTERY!

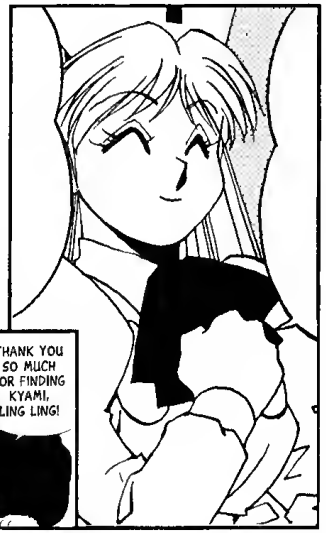
Narutaki, the Boy Detective, was away from the office investigating the "Mystery of the Vanishing Steam Freighter," when a strange incident occurred. Ten-year-old Yukimi's pet cat Kyami disappeared in the Daily district of Steam City. But the mystery was solved by the beautiful secretary/nurse at the detective agency, Ling Ling.

After listening to Yukimi's report, Ling Ling had the idea to search the sewer system. Two days into the search she found the cat and managed to draw it out of hiding with a butter-cake. Yukimi was overjoyed.

Residents of the district had heard strange crying sounds coming from underground, and they reported it to the police, but before the police could investigate, the mystery was solved. Now it seems that Steam City's very own Ling Ling is gaining popularity day by day!



A happy Yukimi reunited with her cat, Kyami



The heroic Ling Ling

CAFE SHOP
SORCA
DELICIOUS HOMEMADE BUTTERCAKES

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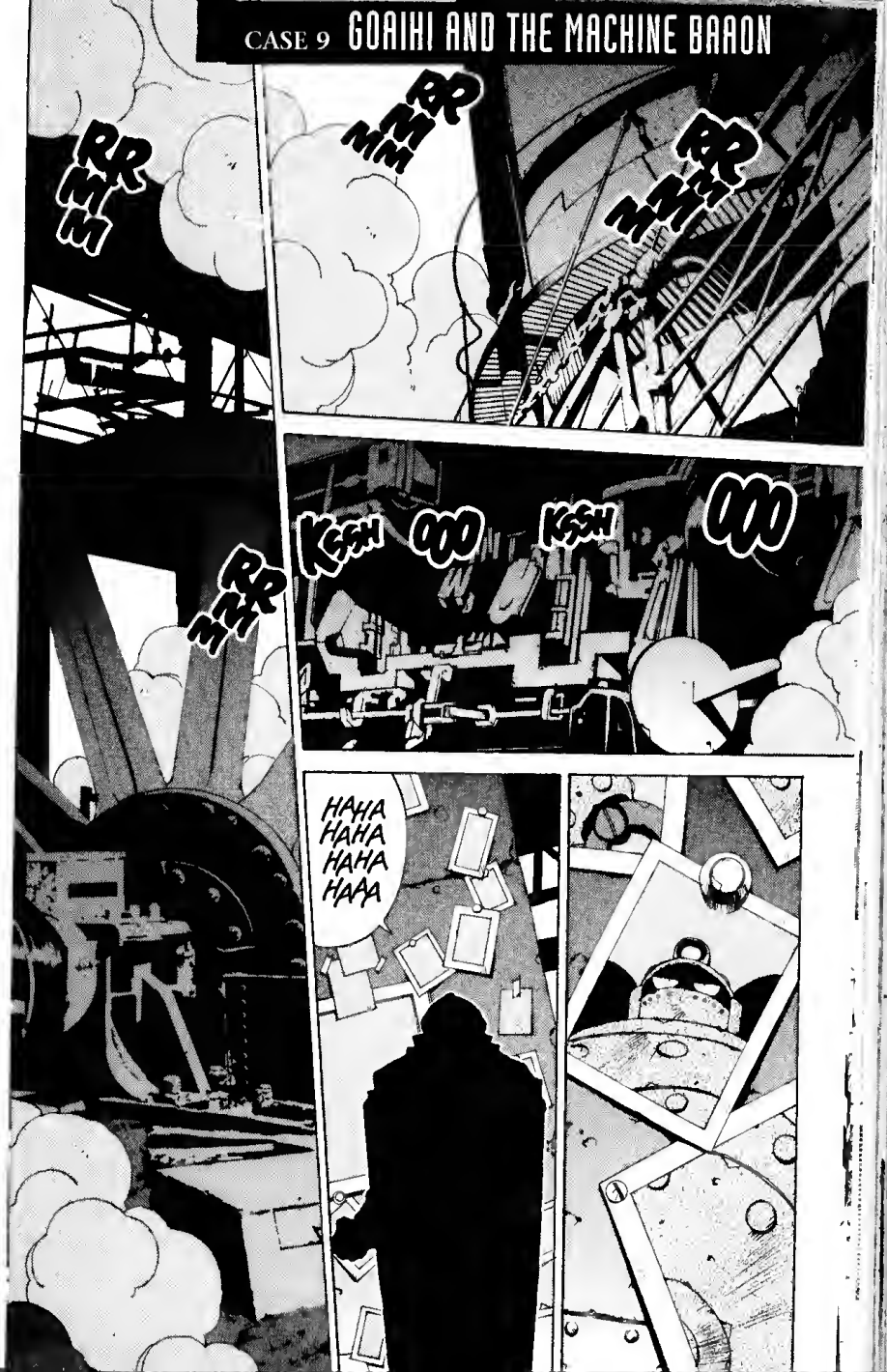
CASE 9 GOAIHI AND THE MACHINE BAAON



CASE 9 GORIKI AND THE MACHINE BARON
YOU ARE SUPERB, SIMPLY SUPERB, GORIKI! I, THE MACHINE BARON, THE ULTIMATE COLLECTOR OF MACHINES, MUST POSSESS YOU. YOU WILL BE PART OF MY COLLECTION OF MACHINES.
RRRMMM
RRRMMM
I HAVE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BEAUTIFUL MACHINE AS YOU !!
RRRMMM
RRRMMM
GORIKI HAS AN INTELLIGENCE AND GRACE LACKING IN ALL OTHER MEGAMATONS!
PLUS, THE POWER TO STOP STEAM TRAINS!
GORIKI IS ART!!
URRR
URRR
YOU SHALL BE MINE!
GORIKI!
BWAHAHAHA
RRMM
RRMM

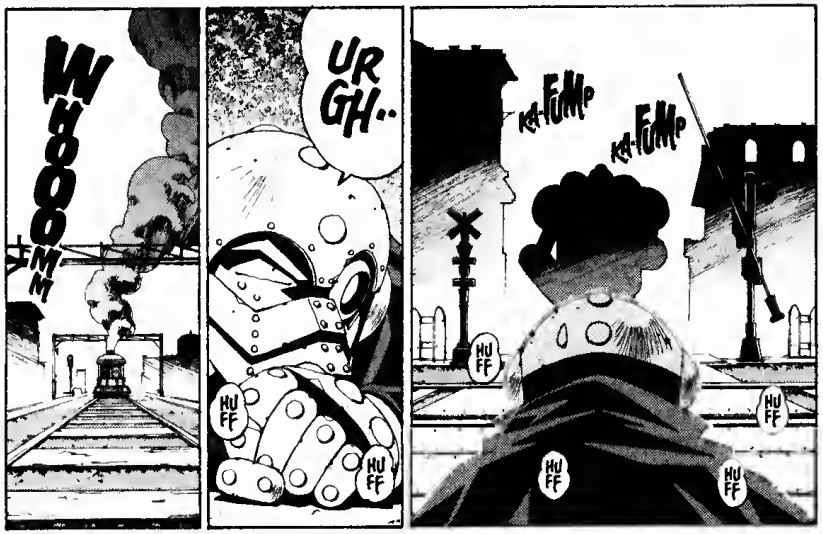
OFFICES OF THE STEAM DETECTIVES
NARUTAKI
DETECTIVE AGENCY
FOR-GIVE ME, GORIKI.
NO ONE ELSE HAS A MOMENT TO SPARE. COULD YOU GO SHOPPING?
RR
THANK YOU!
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
RR
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
THIS OPPOR-TUNITY IS UN-MATCHED!!
GORIKI, ALL ALONE. IT'S AS IF HE'S BEGGING ME TO ABDUCT HIM!

THANKS! COME AGAIN!
Butcher
RR
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
H-HOW COULD THEY LOWER GORIKI TO A MENIAL ERRAND BOY!?
YOU'RE SADLY MIS-TAKEN, NARU-TAKI!
ONLY I CAN POSSIBLY UNDER-STAND THE FULL POTENTIAL OF GORIKI!
ZING
FWEEE!
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
HERE HE COMES!!
KLNCH
STEP INTO MY NOOSE!!
KA-FUMP

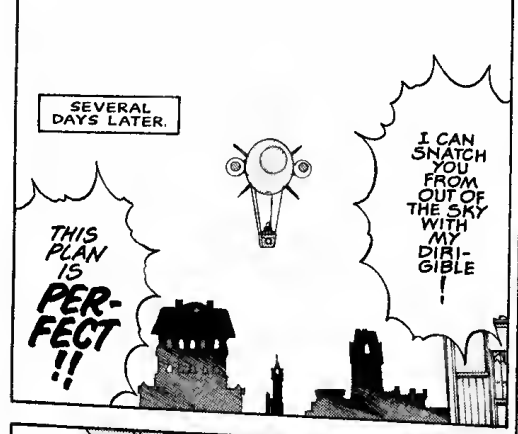
OW!
SW-
OOFF
VRRROOOM
ZH
OOP
VRRRN
VRRN
VRRN
VRRN
HYA AAH!
AIIEEEEEE
KRRREEEECH
KA-FJUMP
KA-FJUMP
KA-FJUMP

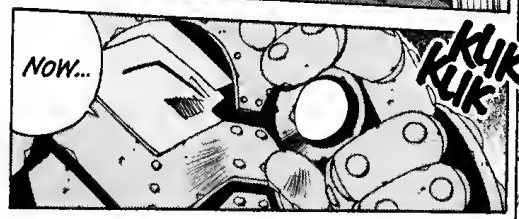
WH-WHAT AMAZING POWER!!
BUT I WON'T GIVE UP!!
HOW ABOUT THIS!?!
AARRRGGH
SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCH SKRNCHA
GRG GRG GRG
PHEW... THE BARRIER IS LOWERING.
NOW, GORIKI MUST STOP!
SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA SKRNCHA
WHOOOSH
SKRNCHA
FSSHH FSSHH FSSH
OH, NO!

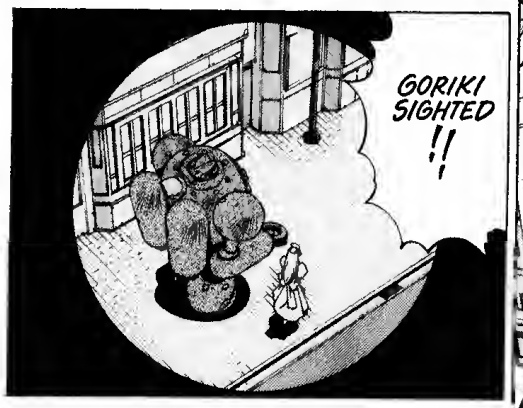
KLAKETTA
KLAKETTA
KLAKETTA
KLAKETTA

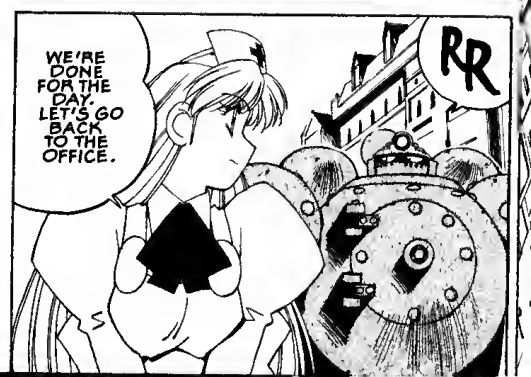

WOOOM
UR GH..
HU FF
HU FF
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
HU FF
HU FF
HU FF
HU FF

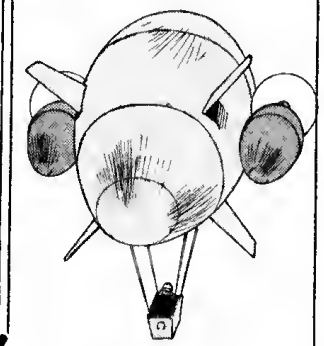
WHEN THE BARRIER GOES DOWN, YOU MUST STOP !!
NEVER IGNORE THE BARRIER! CURSE YOU !

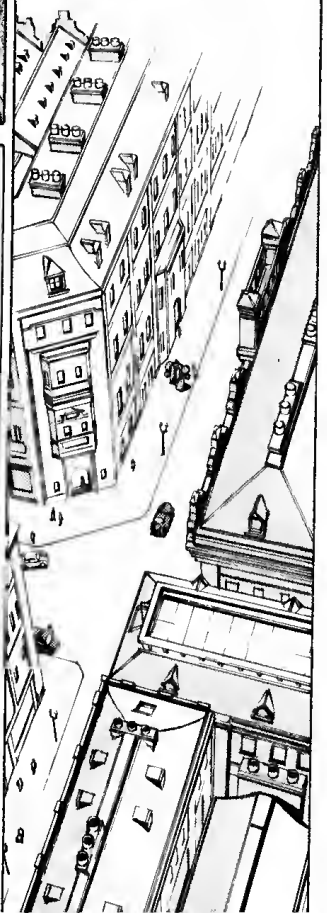

SEVERAL DAYS LATER.
THIS PLAN IS PER-FECT !!
I CAN SNATCH YOU FROM OUT OF THE SKY WITH MY DIRI-GIBLE !

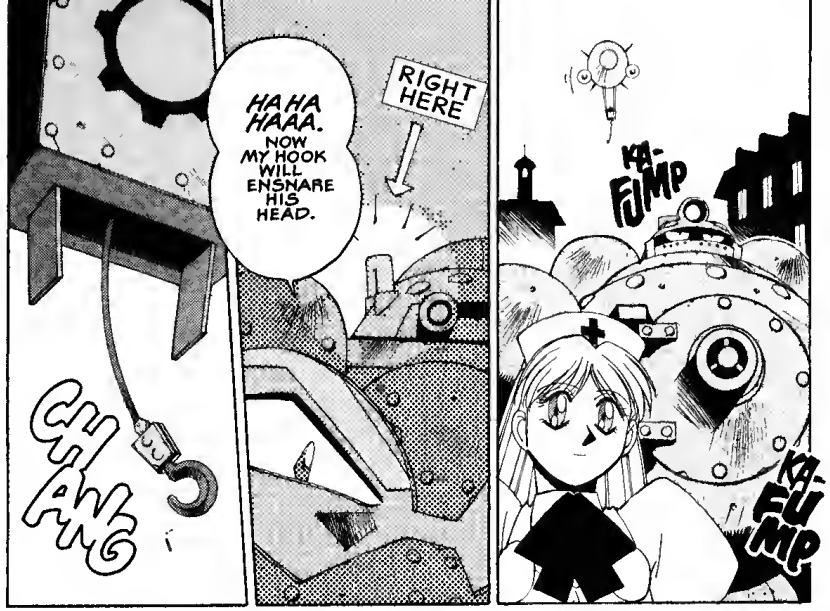

NOW...
KLIK KLIK

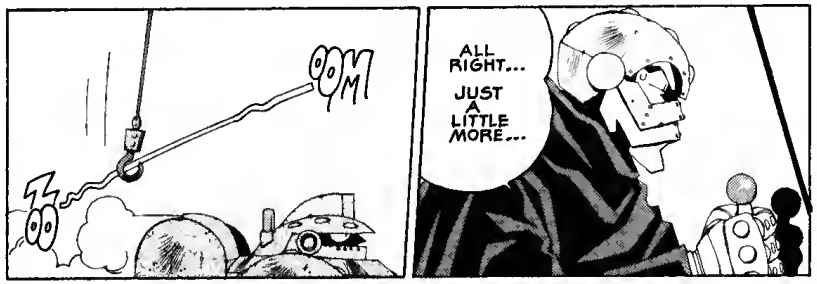

GORIKI SIGHTED !!

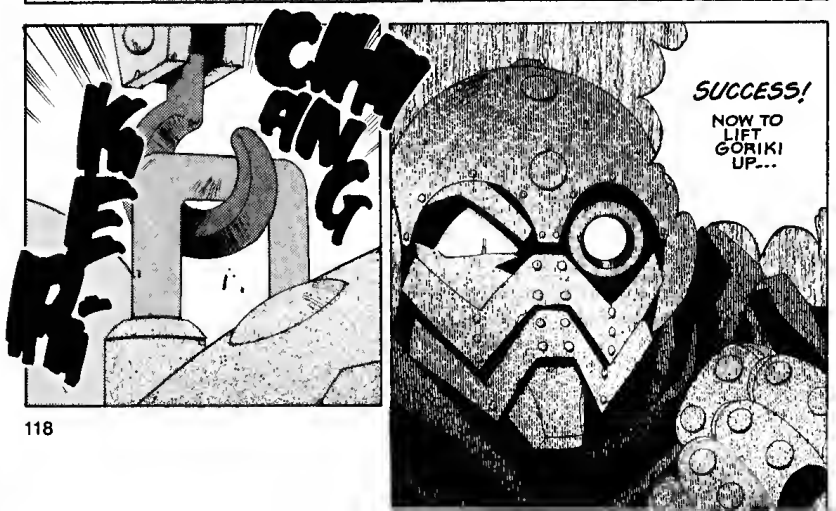

WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY. LET'S GO BACK TO THE OFFICE.
RR

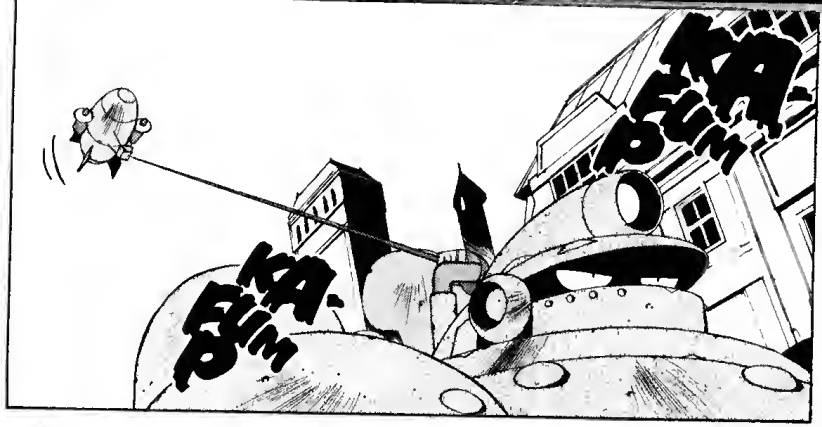


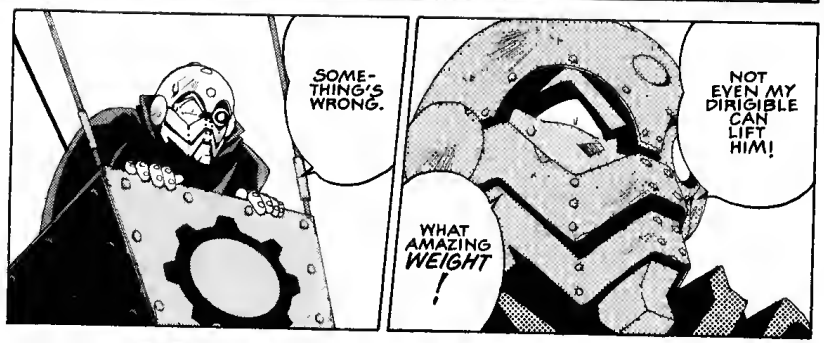



HA HA HAAA. NOW MY HOOK WILL ENSNARE HIS HEAD.
RIGHT HERE
CHANG
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP


OOM
ALL RIGHT... JUST A LITTLE MORE...


CHANG
KER-
SUCCESS! NOW TO LIFT GORIKI UP...


KA-FUMP

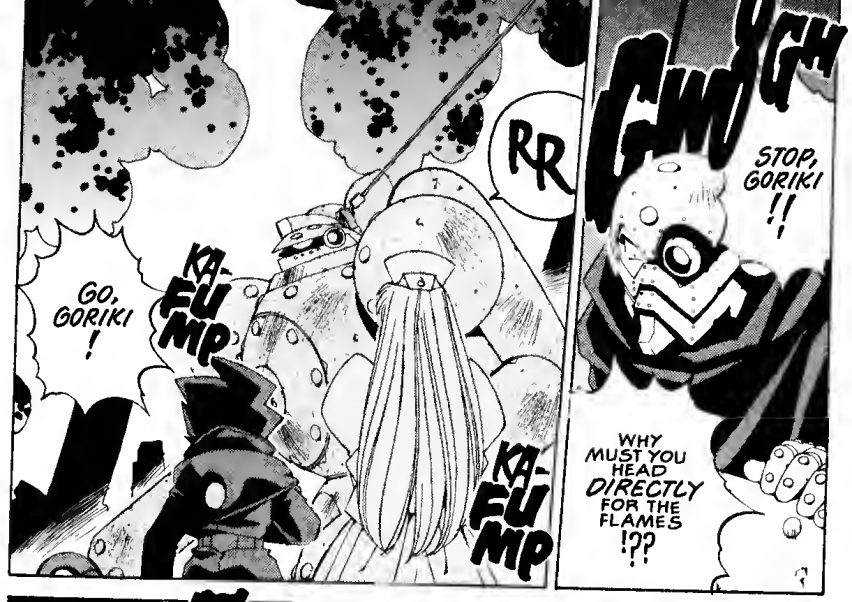

SOME-THING'S WRONG.
NOT EVEN MY DIRIGIBLE CAN LIFT HIM!
WHAT AMAZING WEIGHT!

COME QUICKLY! LING LING! GORIKI!!
WHAT'S WRONG, NARU-TAKI?
THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY'S ON FIRE!! TWO CHILDREN ARE TRAPPED INSIDE!
!!

GWOOOGH
NARUTAKI!
INSPECTOR, WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN!?
GWOOOOGGHH

NO! NO! NO! YOU MUSTN'T HEAD TOWARD THE FLAMES!
GWOOOGHH
THIS BALLOON IS FILLED WITH HYDROGEN! THIS COULD SPELL DISASTER!

CURSES! I SHOULD ALWAYS REMEMBER TO RIG A WIRE CUTTING DEVICE!
WHOOSH!
WHAT A BUNGLE!!

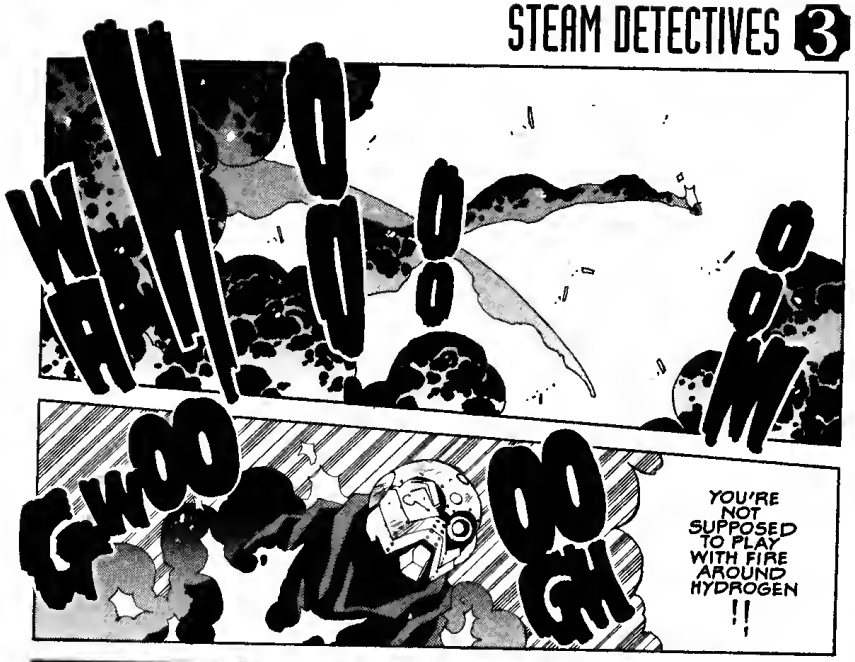

RR
GO, GORIKI!
KA-FUMP
KA-FUMP
GWOOOGH
STOP, GORIKI!!
WHY MUST YOU HEAD DIRECTLY FOR THE FLAMES!??

GWOOGH
KA-FUMP
AIIEEEEE!
GWOOGH
GWOOGGHH

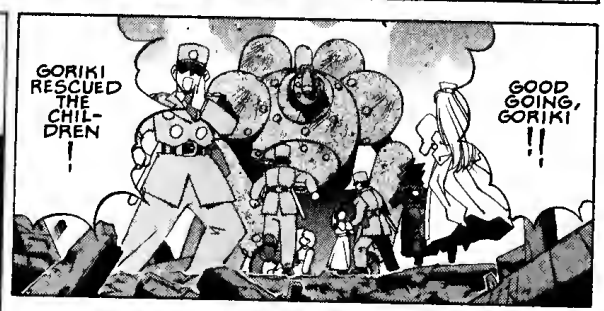
KA-FUMP
GWOOGGHH
SKLIP
HM?

KA
BOOOM

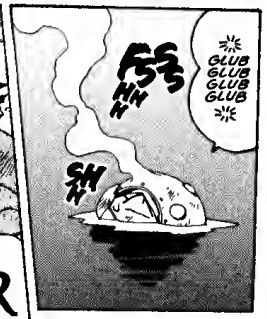
WHAT WAS THAT ?
SHOOM
GWOOGH
SH OOO M
?
WAS THERE SOME-THING ABOVE US ?
WHO KNOWS ?


WHAAH!
OOO
GWOO
OOGH
YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PLAY WITH FIRE AROUND HYDROGEN !!

SSSSPLISH

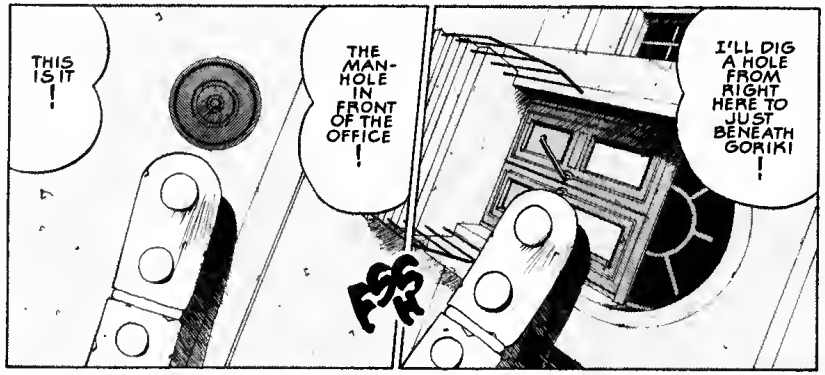

GORIKI RESCUED THE CHIL-DREN !
GOOD GOING, GORIKI !!

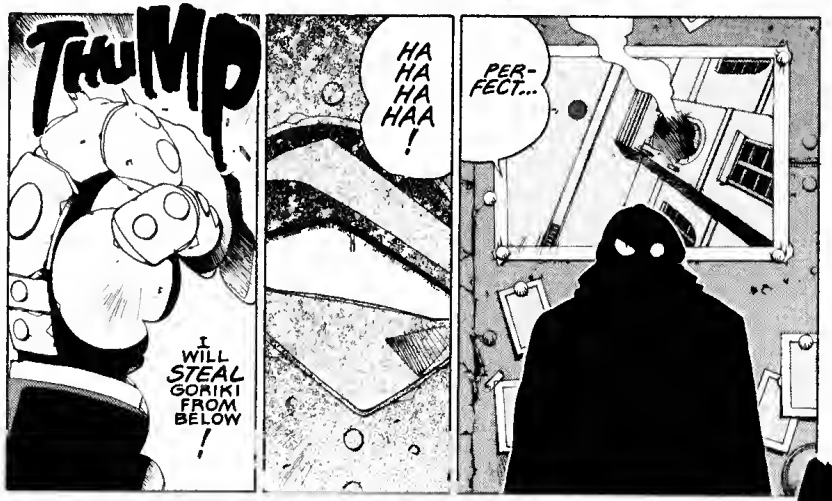
WELL DONE, GORIKI !!
RR


GLUB GLUB GLUB GLUB
SSSHH
SHH

A NEW DAY...
YES?
MY, WHAT A BEAUTIFUL YOUNG LADY.
AND YET THERE ARE METHODS TO ENHANCE EVEN A BEAUTY SUCH AS YOURS.
I'M SORRY?
I SEE, YOU'RE A COSMETICS SALESMAN. I DON'T USE MUCH MAKEUP THOUGH.
BUT THIS IS CALLED "NATURAL MAKEUP," YOU SEE, AND... HM?
MAY I INQUIRE AS TO THE DENT?
THAT'S WHERE OUR MEGA-MATON ALWAYS STANDS, SO...
I SEE...

A MEGA-MATON...
YOUNG LADY, I MUST APOLO-GIZE!!
HM?
I HAVE JUST RECALLED SOME URGENT BUSINESS. PLEASE ALLOW ME TO STOP BY LATER.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME!
TMP
??
YES! YES!! YEES-SSSS!!
THAT IS THE DENT!!


THIS IS IT!
THE MANHOLE IN FRONT OF THE OFFICE!
FSS
I'LL DIG A HOLE FROM RIGHT HERE TO JUST BENEATH GORIKI!

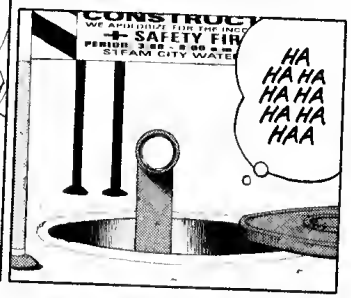

THUMP
I WILL STEAL GORIKI FROM BELOW!
HA HA HA HAA!
PERFECT...

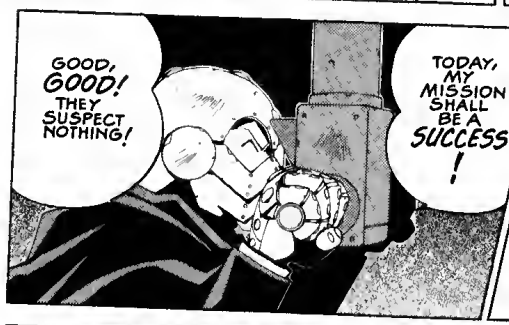
KKA-
SEWER CONSTRUCTION
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE
+ SAFETY FIRST +
PERIOD: 3:00 - 5:00 a.m., OCTOBER 4
STEAM CITY WATERWORKS
TAHNG

!!
GA-CHANG GA-CHANG GA-CHANG
SEWER CONSTRUCTION
WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE INCONVENIENCE
+ SAFETY FIRST +
PERIOD: 3:00 - 5:00 a.m., OCTOBER 4
STEAM CITY WATERWORKS

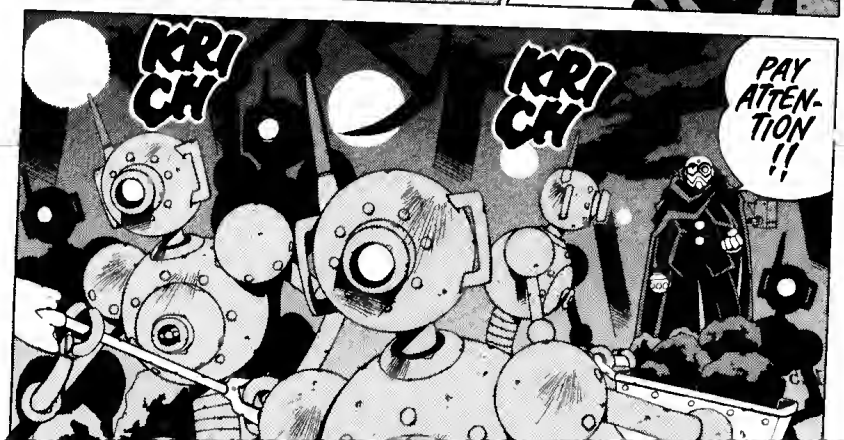
THEY'RE STARTING CONSTRUCTION ON THE PIPES?
THEY SHOULD HAVE LET US KNOW.

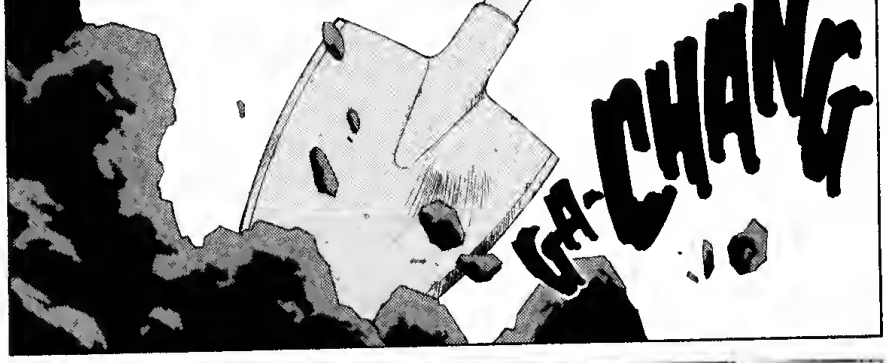
THAT'S ODD!
NABUTAKI
DETECTIVE AGENCY
GA-TANG


HA HA HA HA HA HA HAA

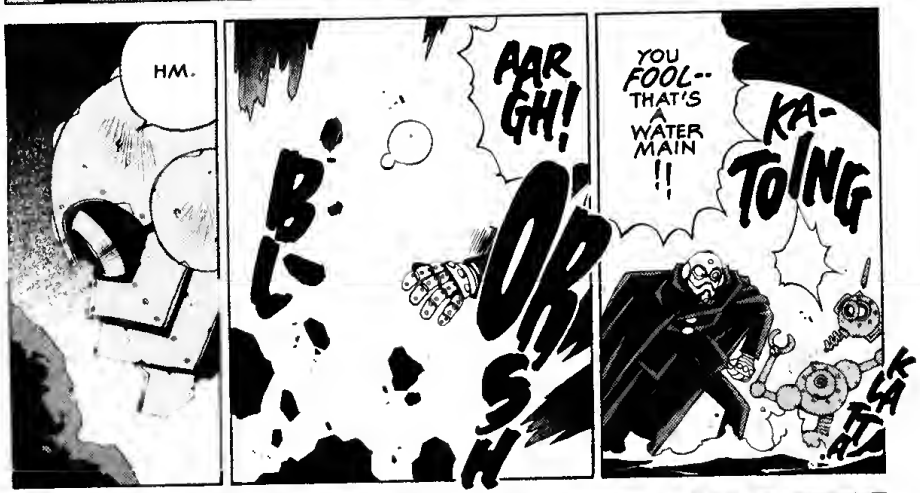

GOOD, GOOD! THEY SUSPECT NOTHING!
TODAY, MY MISSION SHALL BE A SUCCESS!

YOU UNDERSTAND THE PLAN, MY MINIONS!?!

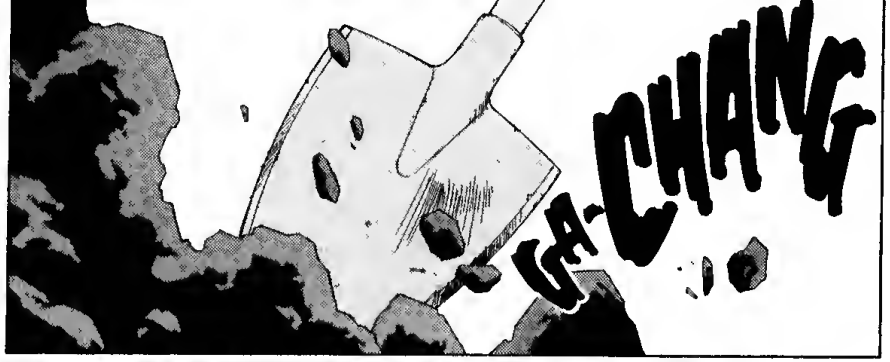

KRI CH
KRI CH
PAY ATTENTION!!


GA-CHANG

GI
ARE YOU THERE!? DID WE REACH NARUTAKI'S OFFICE !?!

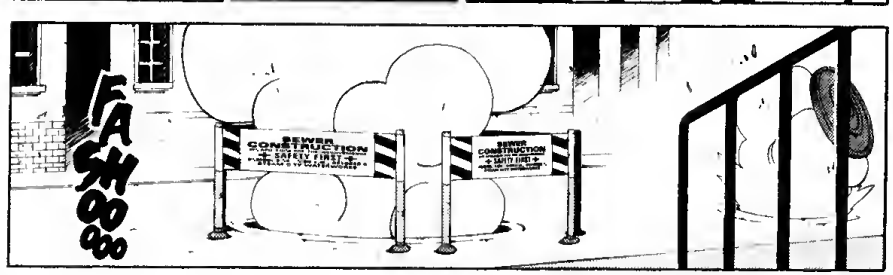

HM.
AARGH!
BL-
OR
SH
YOU FOOL-- THAT'S A WATER MAIN !!
KA-TOING
KA
TA!

CURSE IT !!
P-TINK
P-TINK


GA-CHANG

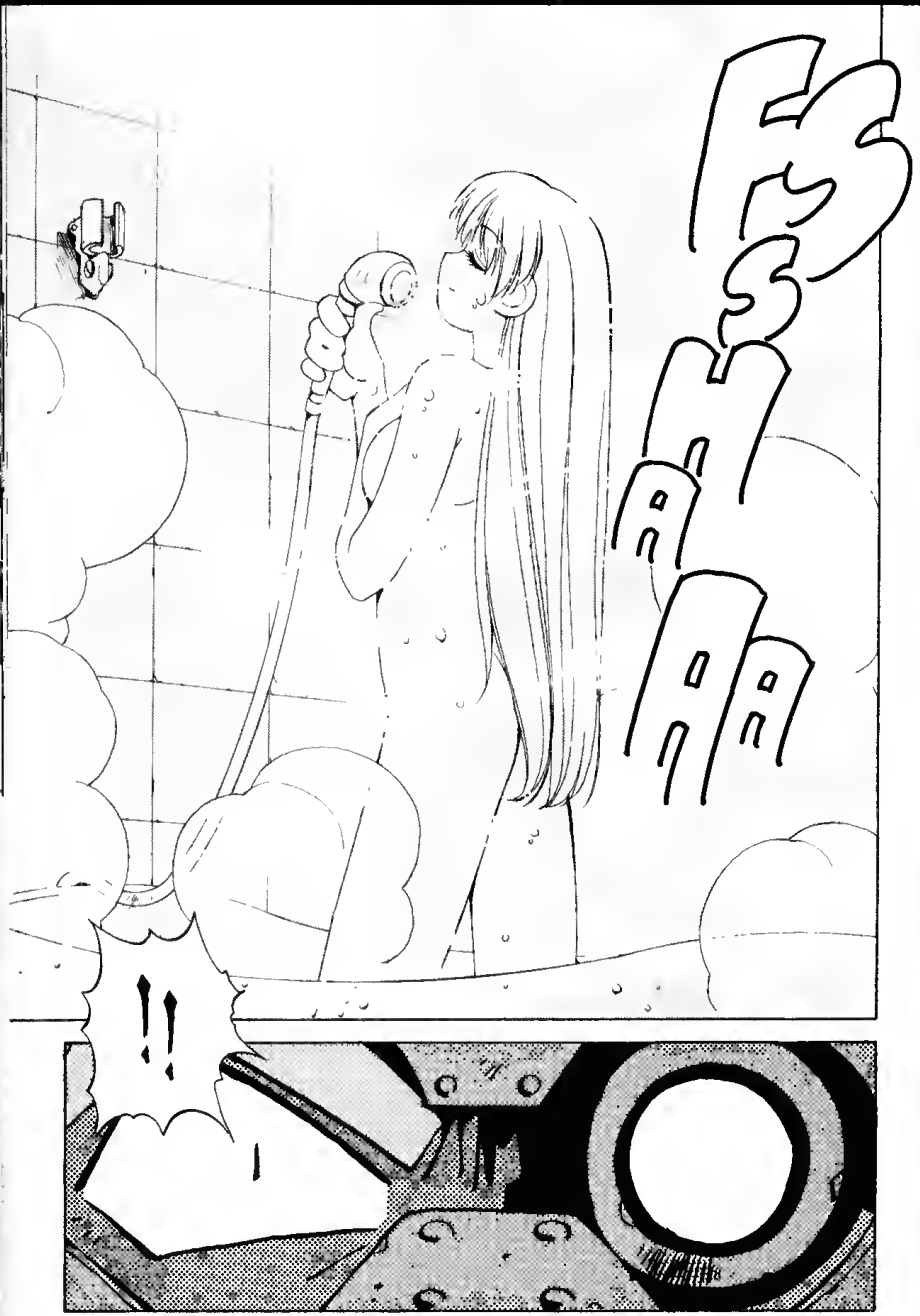
GI
THERE IS NO MISTAKE THIS TIME, RIGHT !?!

HM.
FASHOOOOO
GAS
FAA-
BL
OO
E
AII EEE EE!


FA SH OO OO
SEWER CONSTRUCTION
SAFETY FIRST
SEWER CONSTRUCTION
SAFETY FIRST

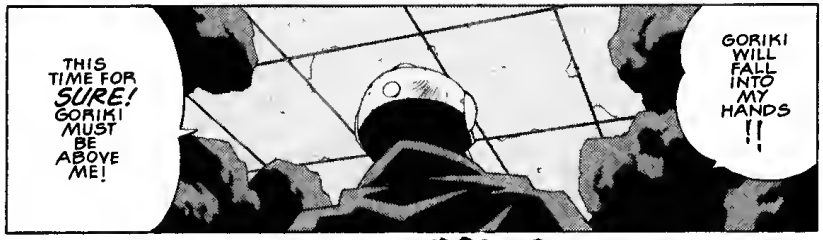
CURSE YOU !!
CURSE YOUR INCOMPETENT METAL HIDES !
CHANGG
IF I WANT IT DUG, I'LL DIG IT MYSELF !!
KAKK
AND DIG, AND DIG, AND DIG !!
BONG
YES! NIGHT HAS FALLEN!
ACCORDING TO MY DIAGRAMS, GORIKI SHOULD BE RIGHT ABOVE ME...

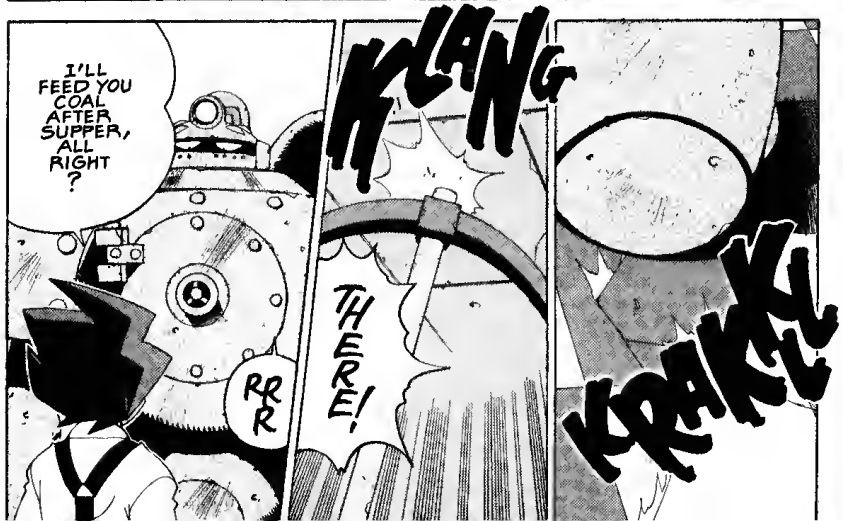
....
HM MM.
LET'S TRY...
IT'S LOOSE !!
SKEEEE
GORIKI SHOULD BE RIGHT HERE...
SOON HE'LL BE MINE.
HM?


!!

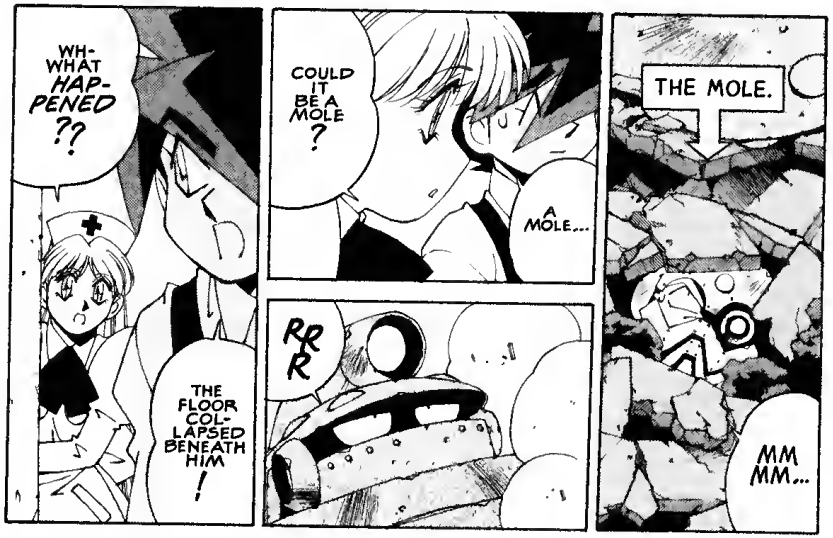
I MISCAL-CULATED. HOW-EVER...
SKWEEK
!!
I HAVE CHILLS, LIKE SOMEONE IS WATCHING ME.
MUST BE MY IMAGINA-TION.
THAT WAS CLOSE...
AL-THOUGH SOME FAILURES ARE WORTH IT.

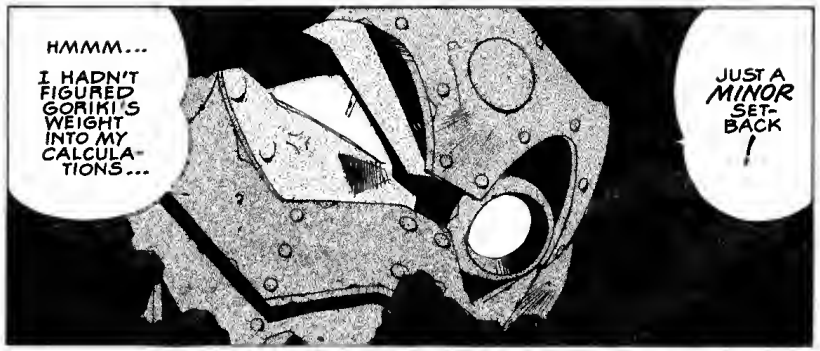
KRITCH
MUSTN'T GET DISTRACTED! GORIKI IS MY GOAL!
NOW!
WHOOM
NARUTAKI!
SUPPER'S READY

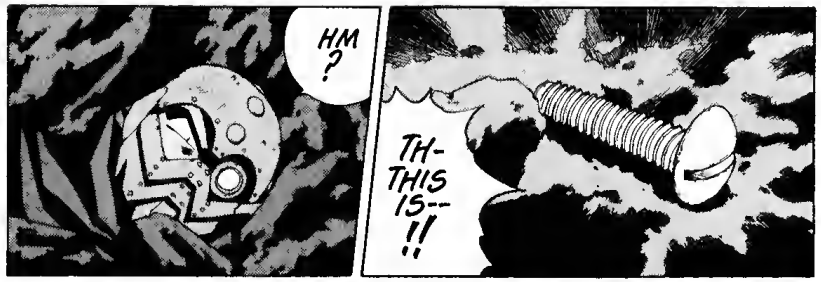

THIS TIME FOR SURE! GORIKI MUST BE ABOVE ME!
GORIKI WILL FALL INTO MY HANDS!!

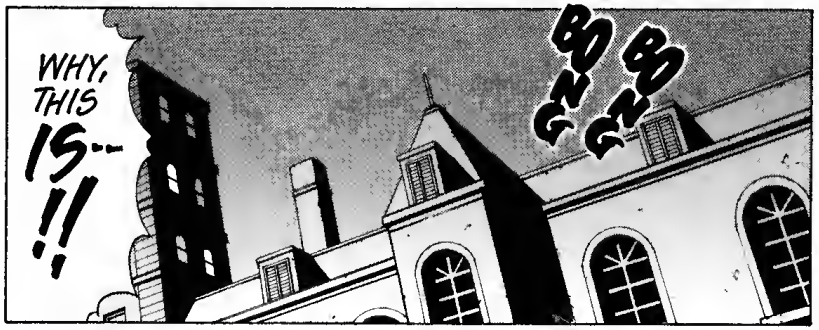

I'LL FEED YOU COAL AFTER SUPPER, ALL RIGHT?
RRR
THERE!
KLANG
KRAKK!

KA-
WHOO
DOOOM
GORIKI!

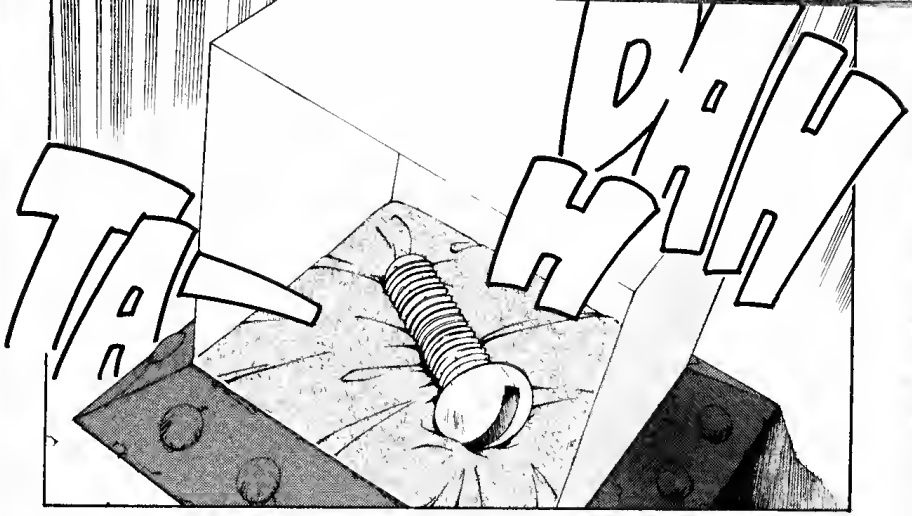

WH-WHAT HAPPENED??
THE FLOOR COLLAPSED BENEATH HIM!
COULD IT BE A MOLE?
A MOLE...
RRR
THE MOLE.
MMM MM...


HMMM...
I HADN'T FIGURED GORIKI'S WEIGHT INTO MY CALCULATIONS...
JUST A MINOR SET-BACK!

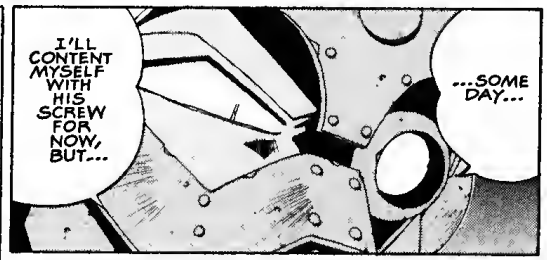

HM?
TH-THIS IS--!!

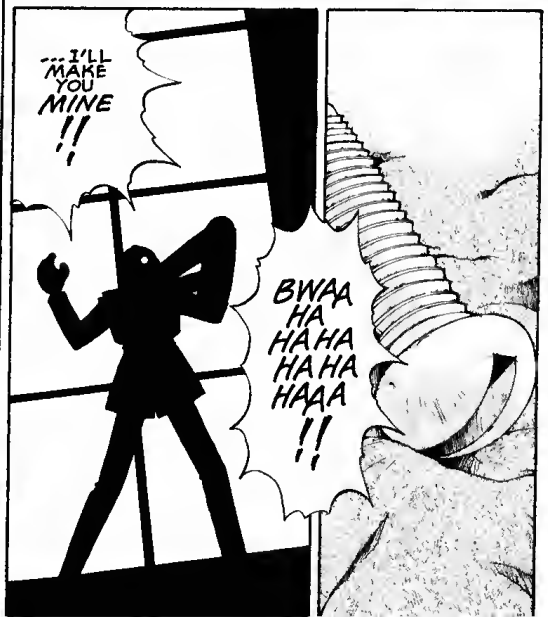

WHY, THIS IS--!!
GZZZ
GZZZ

GZZZ
GZZZ


TA-
DAH

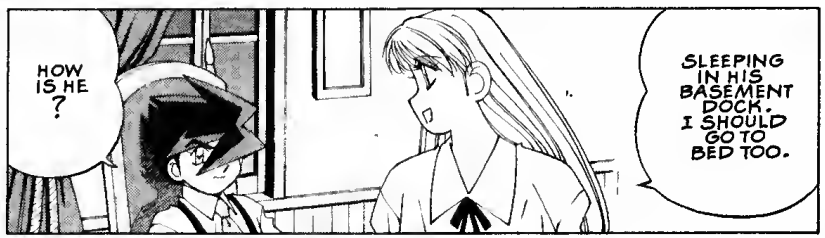
HA HA HA HA. EVEN IN FAILURE, I FIND SUCCESS!!
ONE OF GORIKI'S MAGNIFICENT SCREWS.


I'LL CONTENT MYSELF WITH HIS SCREW FOR NOW, BUT...
...SOME DAY...

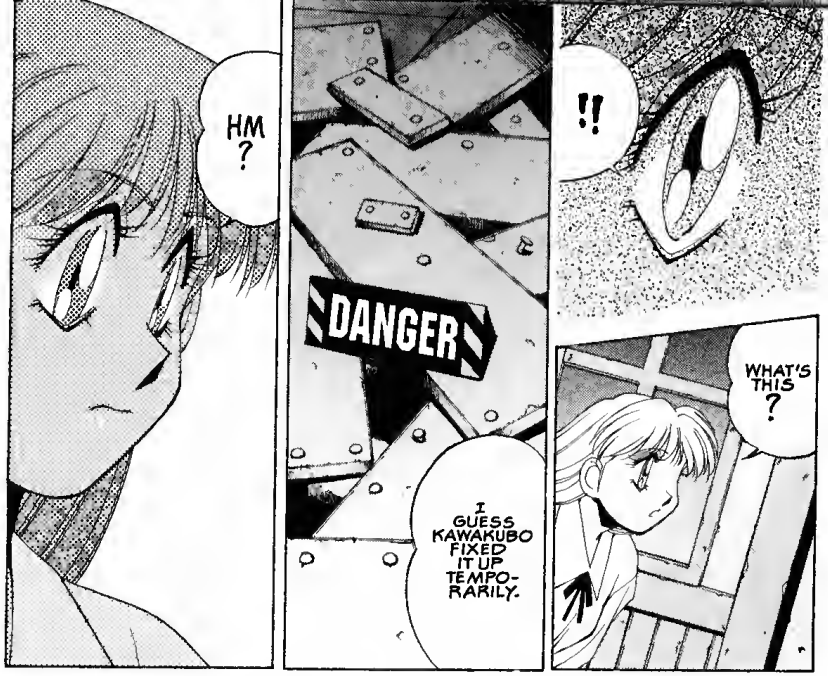

...I'LL MAKE YOU MINE!!
BWAA HA HA HA HA HA HAAA!!

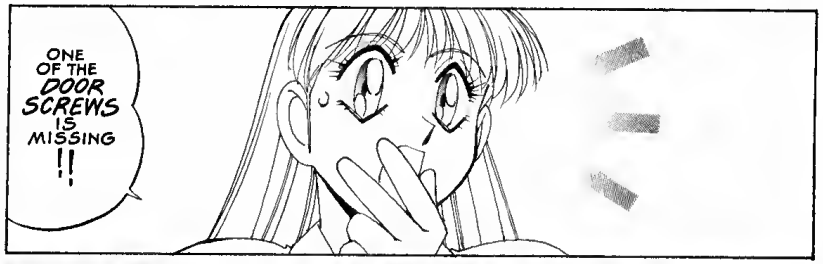
NARUTAKI
DETECTIVE AGENCY

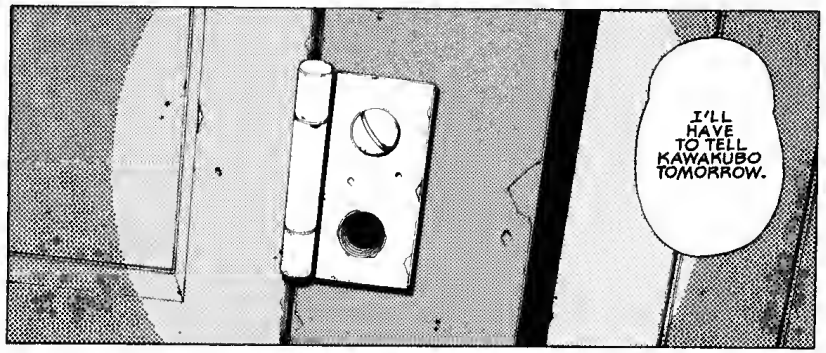
GUG GUG
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE'VE HAD SO PEACEFUL A DAY...
EXCEPT FOR GORIKI FALLING THROUGH THE FLOOR.


HOW IS HE?
SLEEPING IN HIS BASEMENT DOCK. I SHOULD GO TO BED TOO.

GOOD-NIGHT, NARUTAKI.
GOOD-NIGHT, LING LING.
FLIP FLIP


HM?
DANGER
!!
WHAT'S THIS?
I GUESS KAWAKUBO FIXED IT UP TEMPORARILY.


ONE OF THE DOOR SCREWS IS MISSING!!


I'LL HAVE TO TELL KAWAKUBO TOMORROW.

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

STEAM CITY'S LIFELINE

Steam City is a city of water. The canal running vertically is absolutely essential for transporting goods, and the entire population depends on the underground waterworks for its water supply.

The underground water system has expanded with the increase in water usage (supplying coolant for every household's steam system is nothing to sneeze at). And gradually, the underground water system has become a giant labyrinth.

Recently, there has been a decrease in rainfall due to shifting climatic conditions, and that has given rise to a political movement advocating recycled water. The government's department of science has been researching a recycling system over the past five years, but has met little concrete success. Some are calling this project a waste of taxpayers' money. Unless there are breakthroughs and quick implementation this year there will be mounting opposition against the project. We are entering an era where we must call into question our use of water as a natural resource.

Lately, there has been a lot of excitement building about the use of natural gases based on fossil fuels as an alternative to steam power. However, this system is still being tested, and it will be quite a while before the entirety of Steam City can depend on gas.

THESE SIGNS CAN BE FOUND ALL OVER STEAM CITY

— INFORMATION —

SEWER CONSTRUCTION

3:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. October 4 (FRI)
LAYER DISTRICTS B6 - B8
Steam City Waterworks

Volume 013 • Issued by Steam Press Co.,Ltd.

MWA HA HA HA. ANOTHER HUMAN BEGGING FOR DEATH!!
NO LIVING CREATURE MAY HINDER MY UNION WITH THE HUMAN KING'S DAUGHTER! NOT EVEN A GOD!!
WHUUUUU
UUU
THOU SHALT DIE, AND I SHALL RESCUE THE PRINCESS UNHARMED!
HAH !!
KEEN
GHAA
NO !
MWA HA HA HA. NOW DIE !!
AHRRRR
!?
NO? IMPOSSIBLE!
GWAAAAAAAAGH!!
CAN IT BE THE MYTHICAL...
WHITE DRAGON !?
HHAAAAA
SSSSSSH

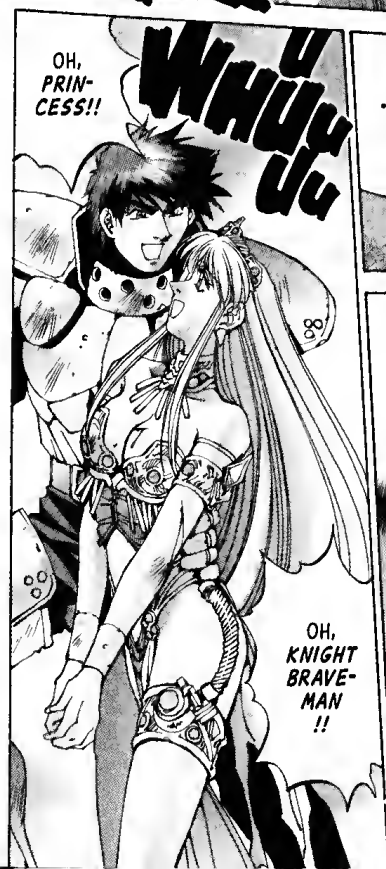
WAS ITS SOUL WITHIN THE SWORD !?
OH, KNIGHT BRAVE-MAN!!
NOW, KNIGHT BRAVEMAN! TAKE THE BLADE THAT HOUSES MY SOUL!
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP

BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP BA-DUMP
SIGH

IT IS I, THE DRAGON SWORD !!
KA-SHH INNNG
M-MY GOD !!
KLNCH
.....
OHH...

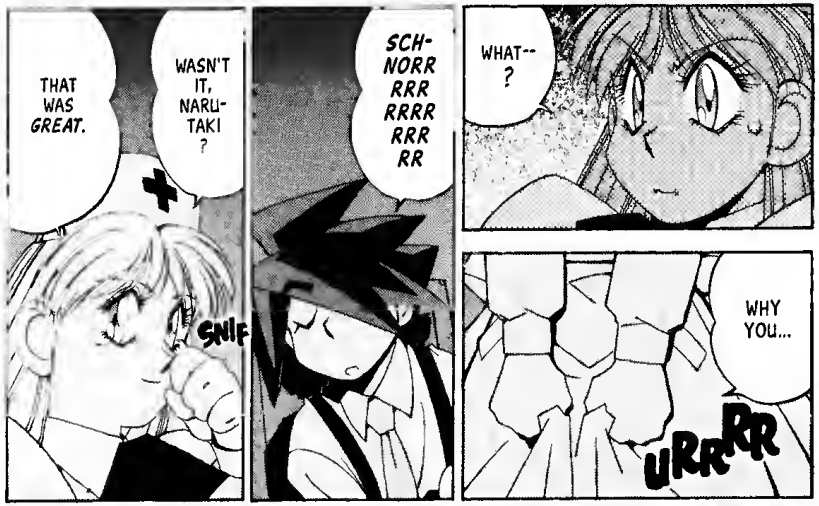
AAA AAAA AARRR RRRR RRRGH
GHANG
AAA—

.....
SOBSNIFF

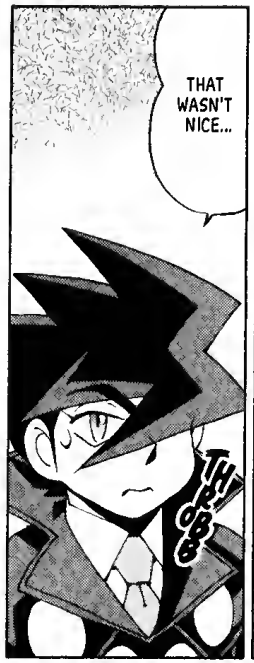

OH, PRIN-CESS!!
WHUUUU
OH, KNIGHT BRAVE-MAN !!

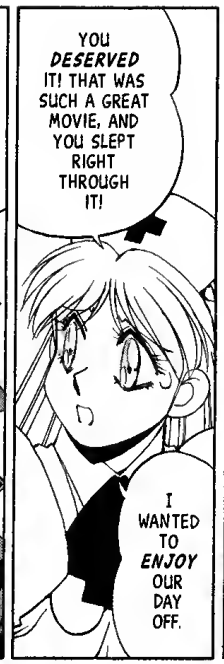
I SHALL ALWAYS BE AT YOUR SIDE.
THERE IS NOTHING TO FEAR... GO FORTH AND BUILD A GREAT EMPIRE!

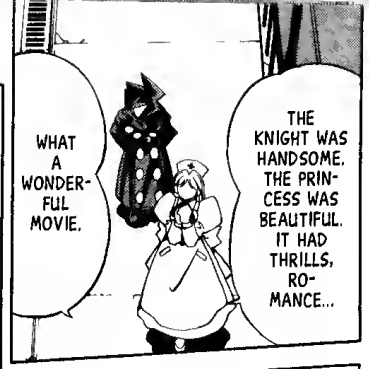
E N D

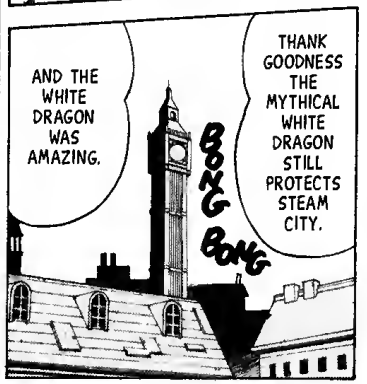

THAT WAS GREAT.
WASN'T IT, NARUTAKI?
SNIF
SCHNORRRRRRRRRRR
WHAT--?
WHY YOU...
URRRRR

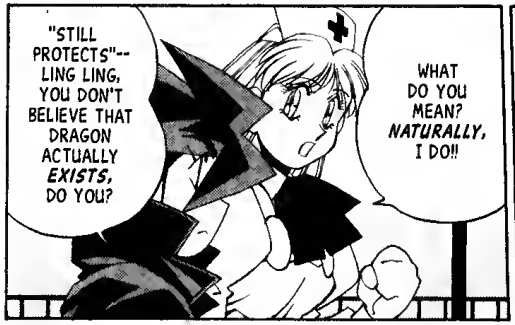
NARUTAKI, YOU DOLT!!
WAKK
OUCH!!

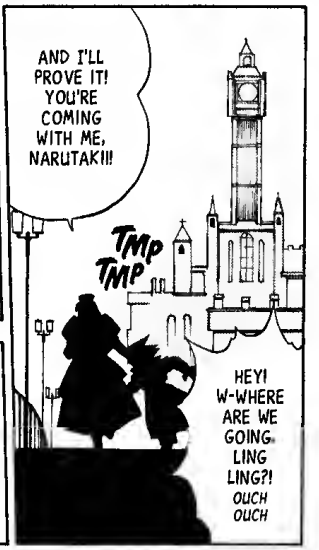

THAT WASN'T NICE...
THUD


YOU DESERVED IT! THAT WAS SUCH A GREAT MOVIE, AND YOU SLEPT RIGHT THROUGH IT!
I WANTED TO ENJOY OUR DAY OFF.


WHAT A WONDERFUL MOVIE.
THE KNIGHT WAS HANDSOME. THE PRINCESS WAS BEAUTIFUL. IT HAD THRILLS, ROMANCE...

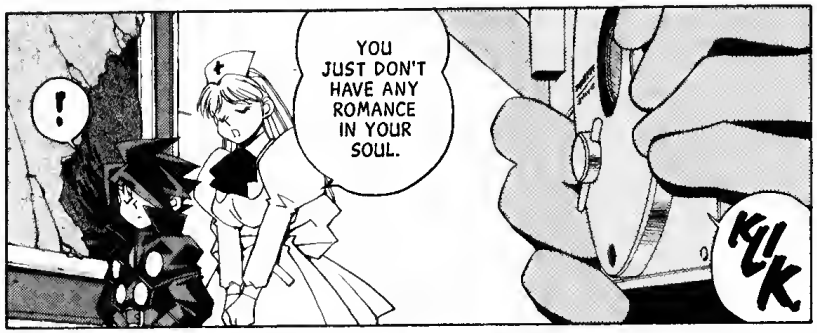

AND THE WHITE DRAGON WAS AMAZING.
THANK GOODNESS THE MYTHICAL WHITE DRAGON STILL PROTECTS STEAM CITY.
BONG BONG

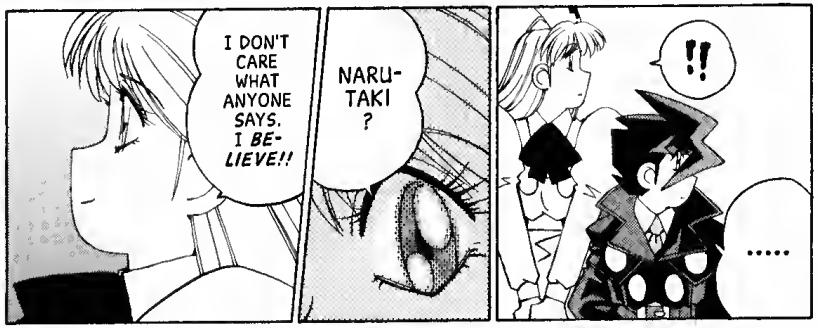

"STILL PROTECTS"--LING LING, YOU DON'T BELIEVE THAT DRAGON ACTUALLY EXISTS, DO YOU?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? NATURALLY, I DO!!


AND I'LL PROVE IT! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, NARUTAKI!!
TMP TMP
HEY! W-WHERE ARE WE GOING, LING LING?! OUCH OUCH

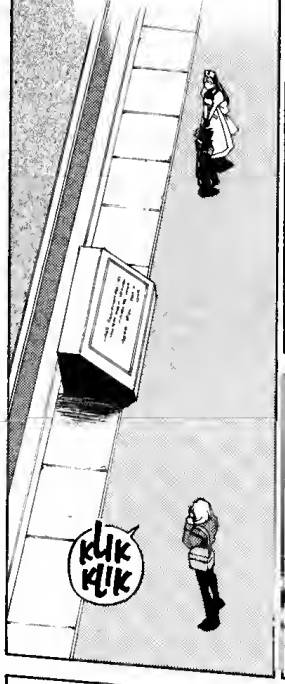
THE DRAGON EXISTS!

CASE 10, PART 1
THE DRAGON OF STEAM CITY
SEE !?
I WAS WONDERING WHY YOU TOOK ME TO THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.
SO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?
YES. THEY FOUND THIS IN THE COAL MINES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.
THERE WAS A LOT OF CONTROVERSY OVER IT WHEN IT WAS FIRST DISCOVERED. SOME ARGUED THAT IT PROVED THE EXISTENCE OF DRAGONS.
I TOLD YOU SO!
AN IMPRINT LIKE THIS COULDN'T BE FAKED.
IF THEY FOUND DRAGON FOSSILS, OR SOMETHING...
BUT A RELIEF DOESN'T PROVE ANYTHING.
YOU'RE KIND OF SHORT ON IMAGINATION FOR A KID, GEEZ.
H-H-HEY, C'MON.


!
YOU JUST DON'T HAVE ANY ROMANCE IN YOUR SOUL.
KLIK


I DON'T CARE WHAT ANYONE SAYS. I BE-LIEVE!!
NARU-TAKI ?
!!
.....

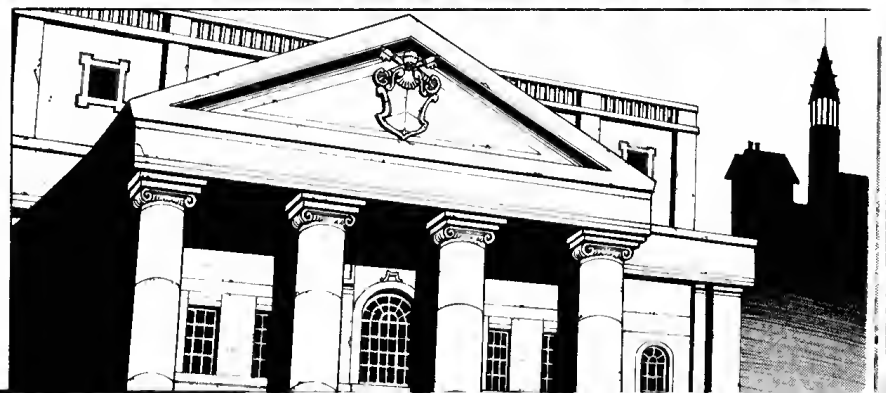
KLIK
KLIK
KLIK
HAH
HM ??


KLIK KLIK

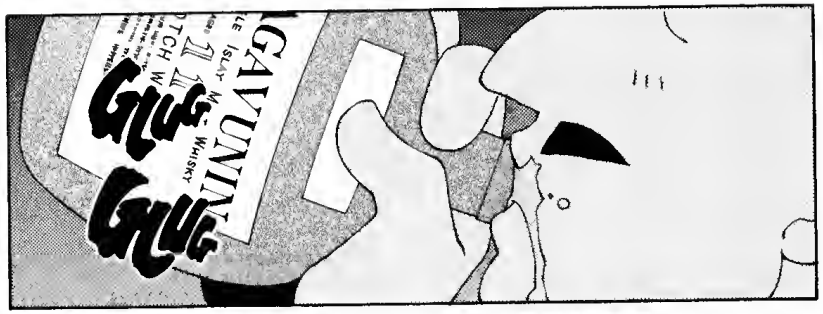
THAT WOMAN LOOKS FAMILIAR...
KLIK KLIK

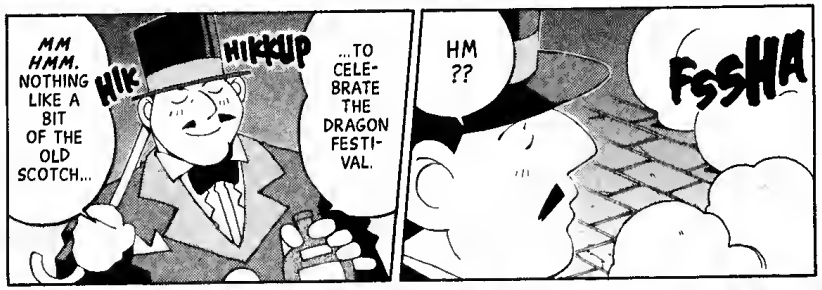
NARU-TAKI! THIS IS NO TIME TO OGLE WOMEN! LET'S GO!
GRABB
OW OW OW
I'M COMING, BUT EASE OFF ON MY EAR, ALL RIGHT!?
HUM-MPH !!

ALL RIGHT! EVERY-THING'S READY TO GO!
NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS...



CHUN CHUN CHUN CHUN
GON GAKON
THE CITY IS BUSY PREPARING FOR A FESTIVAL.
THE FESTIVAL DEDICATED TO THE DRAGON, ONE OF THE FIVE HOLY BEASTS PROTECTING THIS CITY, IS ONLY DAYS AWAY.
THE INHABITANTS BELIEVE THAT THE FIVE HOLY BEASTS PROTECT THE CITY FROM DISASTER.
BOOG
FIVE CLOCK TOWERS RESIDE WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS, AND INSIDE EACH IS A STATUE OF ONE OF THE HOLY BEASTS.
BONG
BONG
THE STATUES WERE INSTALLED AT THE REQUEST OF DOCTOR DAVID WEIGHT, THE ARCHITECT OF ALL FIVE CLOCK TOWERS.
DOCTOR DAVID WEIGHT
THE CITY DEDICATES A FESTIVAL TO ONE BEAST EVERY YEAR.
AND THIS IS THE YEAR OF THE DRAGON !!
OOO
OOO
THE DRAGON FESTIVAL! WHAT EXCELLENT TIMING!
THE REVELERS WILL BE DISTRACTED. MY JOB WILL BE ALL THE EASIER.
IT'S ALSO THE PERFECT CHANCE TO PUT THAT BRAT NARUTAKI IN HIS PLACE!
HA HA HAA HAA!
FWEEEE
WEEEEEE
WEEEEE
WEE EE EE
FWEEEE EE EE EEE FW EEEE EEE

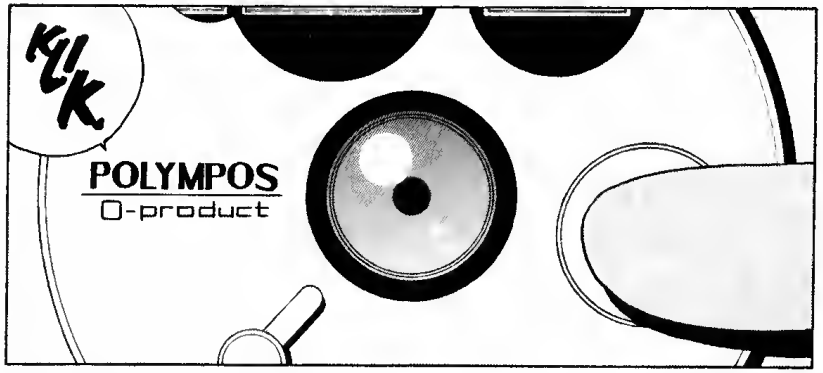

GLUG GLUG
GAVUNIN
WHISKY


MM HMM. NOTHING LIKE A BIT OF THE OLD SCOTCH...
HIK
HIKKUP
...TO CELEBRATE THE DRAGON FESTIVAL.
HM ??
FSSHA

!!

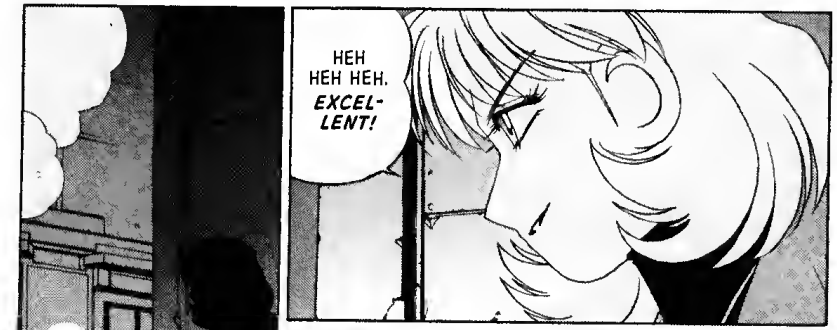
WHAT THE--
KRR SHH
THUMM
IT'S A DRA-GON !?!

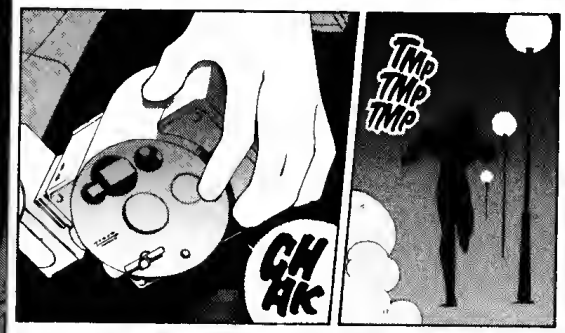
JEWELRY SHOP
KA-
RASH


KLK
POLYMPOS
O-product

KLIK
POLYMPOS
product
AHH...
AHH...
AHH...

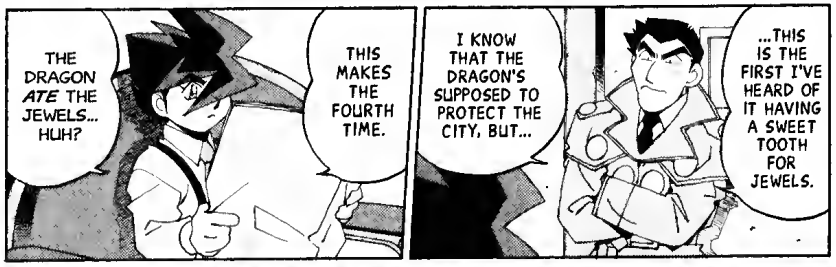
A DRAGON JUST ROBBED A JEWELRY STORE!?
A DRAGON--!?!

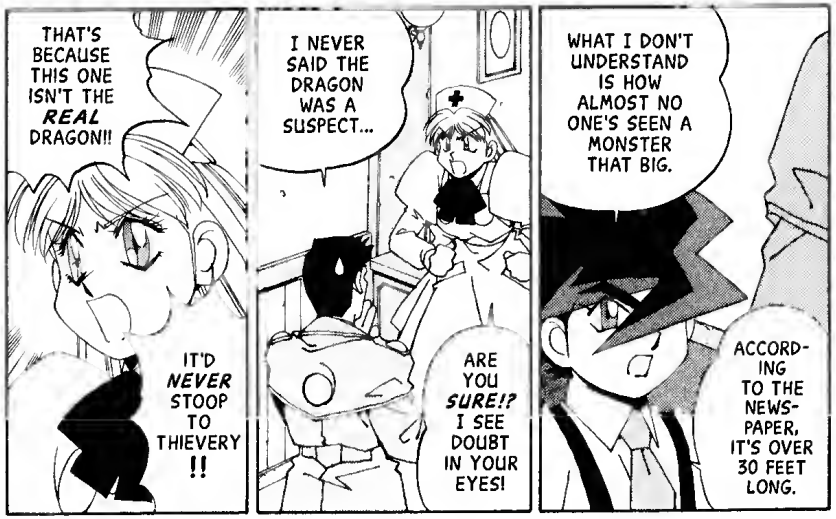

OH, NO! OH, NO! OH, NO! OH, NO!
HEH HEH HEH. EXCEL-LENT!


TMP TMP TMP

BONG

"THE STEAM DAILY PRESS IS PROUD TO PRESENT EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS!"
"DRAGON ATTACKS JEWELRY SHOP!"

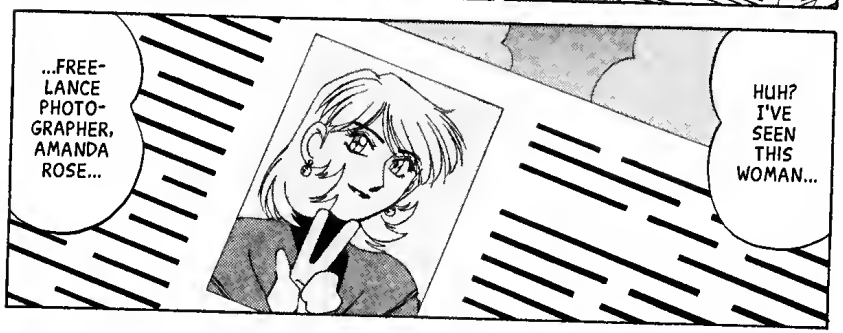

THE DRAGON *ATE* THE JEWELS... HUH?
THIS MAKES THE FOURTH TIME.
I KNOW THAT THE DRAGON'S SUPPOSED TO PROTECT THE CITY, BUT...
...THIS IS THE FIRST I'VE HEARD OF IT HAVING A SWEET TOOTH FOR JEWELS.


THAT'S BECAUSE THIS ONE ISN'T THE *REAL* DRAGON!!
IT'D *NEVER* STOOP TO THIEVERY !!
I NEVER SAID THE DRAGON WAS A SUSPECT...
ARE YOU *SURE!?* I SEE DOUBT IN YOUR EYES!
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW ALMOST NO ONE'S SEEN A MONSTER THAT BIG.
ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER, IT'S OVER 30 FEET LONG.

WELL, IT'S A DRAGON. IT COULD JUST FLY AWAY.
oops!
BUT THAT COULD *NEVER* HAPPEN BECAUSE IT *ISN'T* THE DRAGON, RIGHT? *HA HA HA!*
RRR
GGRR
RR
R
RRR
HUMPH!

THE OTHER THING I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS HOW THE STEAM DAILY PRESS GETS THEIR SCOOPS.
SSHK
THERE WERE FOUR CASES, AND STEAM DAILY GOT EXCLUSIVES ALL FOUR TIMES. ALL THE OTHER NEWSPAPERS ARE COMBING THE TOWN FOR THIS MONSTER.

MAYBE THE OTHERS JUST DON'T HAVE IT ON THE BALL?
I DON'T KNOW...
THE WOMAN WHO TOOK THE PHOTOS IN ALL FOUR CASES WAS...


...FREE-LANCE PHOTO-GRAPHER, AMANDA ROSE...
HUH? I'VE SEEN THIS WOMAN...

...AT THE MUSEUM.
THAT WAS HER!
HM?
SKUNCHH
WHAT IS IT?
SHE'S...
HMM...
FWIP
THIS "AMANDA" WOMAN...
SIR, A GENTLEMAN HERE TO SEE YOU.
SHOW HIM IN.

MY NAME IS MAN KAP-CHOW. I OWN THE HAKKEI JEWELRY SHOP.
I WOULD LIKE TO HIRE YOU TO PROTECT OUR STORE FROM THE DRAGON.
PRO-TECTION FROM THE DRA-GON...
HEY, YOU!! YOU COULDA COME TO ME--THE MASTER SLEUTH, DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA!! INSTEAD YOU HIRE THIS KID!?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU!?
I...I...
CALM DOWN, DETECTIVE. I'D BE HAPPY TO HAVE YOUR HELP IN THIS CASE.
OH... ALL RIGHT.
THERE ARE FIVE JEWELRY STORES IN THE WEST DISTRICT. AND FOUR HAVE BEEN ATTACKED BY THE DRAGON.
LEAVING ONLY THE HAKKEI JEWELRY SHOP, AM I RIGHT?
EXACTLY! THEN YOU ALREADY UNDERSTAND MY PROBLEM.
CAN I COUNT ON YOU?

I DON'T KNOW IF TILTING AT DRAGONS FITS MY JOB DESCRIPTION, BUT...
PLEASE, NARUTAKI!
PROVE THAT IT'S NOT THE REAL DRAGON!

FINE.
TSK.

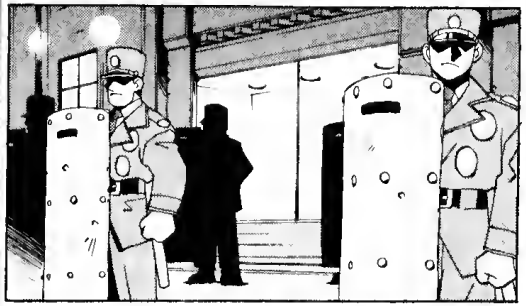
THEN YOU'LL DO IT?
YES, I WILL TRY MY BEST.

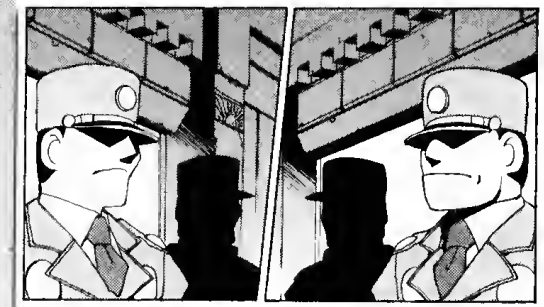
THANKS, NARUTAKI!!
GM PHH !!

WHY... YOU...
LING LING!

THAT NIGHT.
FWEE
EE
EE...

八罫宝石店
HAKKEI JEWELRY SHOP



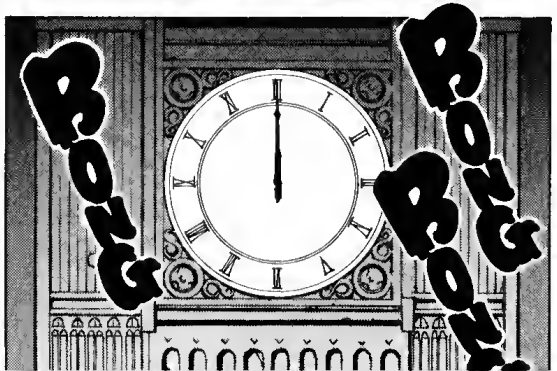


AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF OFFICERS HERE, DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA.
NO ONE SHOULD EXPECT ANY LESS, NARUTAKI!

YOU'LL SEE HOW FORMIDABLE THE POLICE CAN BE !!
THAT'S GREAT. THE BEST OF LUCK TO YOU.

WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF ME!?
NOT AT ALL.
OH! MR. MAN.
I'M SORRY. I'M TOO RESTLESS TO STAY HOME.

IS MY SHOP SAFE ??
FIRST, WE HAVE TO FIND OUT WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.

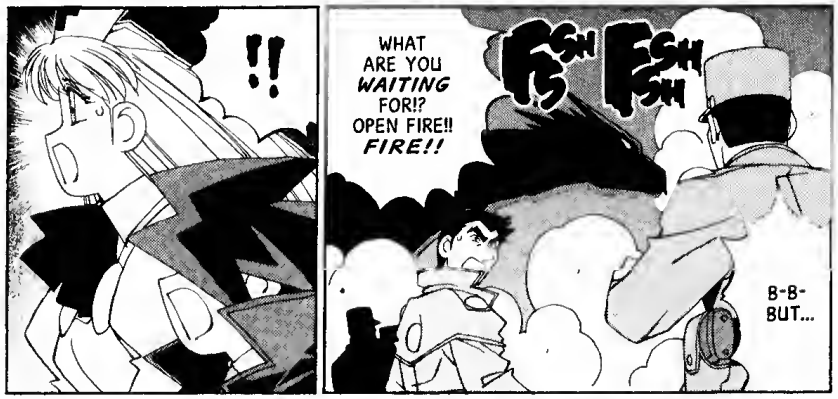

BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG

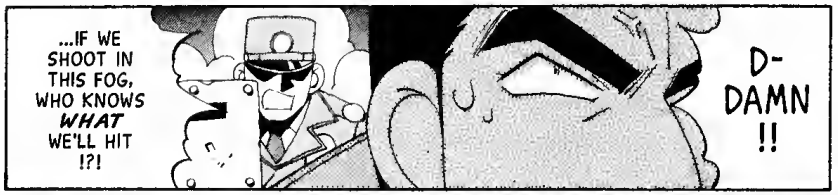
IT'S MID-NIGHT.
BONG
BONG

BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
BONG
UR RRR RR
FSSHHH
WHERE'D THE FOG COME FROM!?
FSSH
FSSH
HHHH
HHHH
HHH
IT CAME IN SO FAST!
DON'T PANIC!! HOLD YOUR POSI-TIONS!!
AAK
RANNNGG

SSSHHH
SSSHHH
SSSHHH
SSSHHH
RRRSHH
RRRSHH

FSSHHH SHHHH
H-H-HERE IT COMES !!
THE DRA-GON !!


!!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR!? OPEN FIRE!! FIRE!!
FSH FSH FSH
B-B-BUT...


...IF WE SHOOT IN THIS FOG, WHO KNOWS WHAT WE'LL HIT !?!
D-DAMN !!

THIS IS A LITTLE TOO FAMILIAR...
IT CAN'T BE THE REAL DRAGON ??
IT CAN'T !!

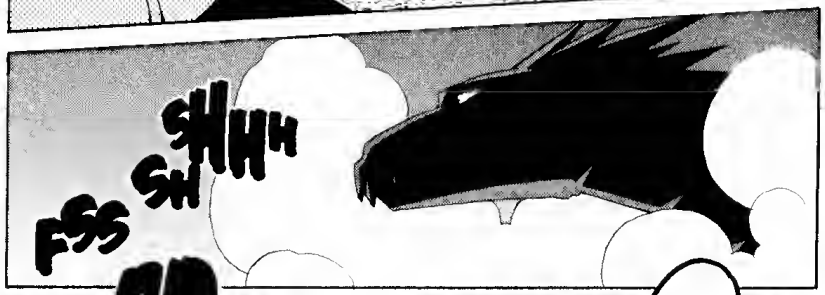
THAT SOUND !!
MR. MAN, NO!! IT'S TOO DANGER-OUS!!
B-B-BUT--!!
KRRRA ASH
IT'S PLUNDER-ING MY STORE !!
CHH-
OOOGH
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THE DRAGON ISN'T A JEWEL THIEF!
TMP TMP

AND I'LL PROVE IT!
THE DRA-GON'S JUST A FAKE !!
TMP TMP TMP

LING LING, STOP !!
FSSSH
FSSSH
SSSHHH
.....
KKRRRR

CHAAA—
CHANNN

IT'S...


FSS
SH
SHHH

GRR
AAA
!!

YAAAAAHHH

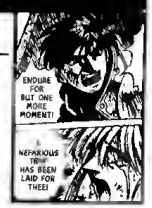
STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS

DRAGON SWORD, A SMASHING SUCCESS!

This year's number one movie is *Dragon Sword*!! Originally produced in honor of the Steam City Dragon Festival, the new action film ended up breaking all attendance records only three days after its opening!
Now, in its eighth week, the film is still number one, and it's breaking even more records. It's the odds-on favorite to be the top-grossing event of the year, and the notices have been unanimously favorable.

WH OOOO
MWA HA HA HA ANOTHER HUMAN BEGGING FOR DEATH!!
NO LIVING CREATURE MAY HINDER MY UNION WITH THE HUMAN KING'S DAUGHTER/ NOT EVEN A GOD!!
OOOO

From the hit film *Dragon Sword*



WEEKLY STEAM MAGAZINE: "A miraculous 2 1/2 hours!"
PLAY STEAM BOY MAGAZINE: "A warm-hearted human drama."
STEAM TIME MAGAZINE: "I have never been so moved...never been so thrilled...never been so inspired by love!"

The film's production company, Steam Fox, recently announced that they will be releasing *Dragon Sword 2* next year. However, next year is the festival of the Simurgh, so some are criticizing the company's timing.

PROVE YOUR LOVE WITH JEWELRY
HAKKEI JEWELRY SHOP
八卦宝石店

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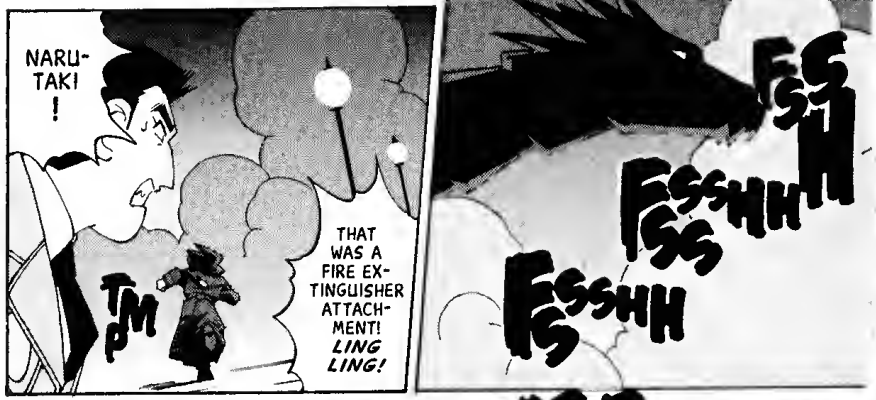
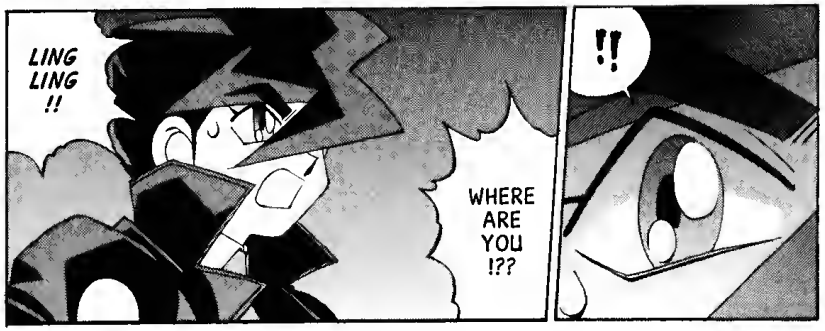
CASE 10, PART 2

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE DRAGON

YAAAAAHHHH
GRRAAAA
LING LING !!
BLAM
AB
GOOOSH
BUSHAAAH
!!
AAAHH
CHAK


NARUTAKI !
TMP
THAT WAS A FIRE EXTINGUISHER ATTACHMENT! LING LING!
FSSHH
FSSHH
FSSHH

THE DRAGON'S ESCAPING!!
CATCH IT!!
YES, SIR !!
TMP TMP TMP
KRRASH


LING LING !!
WHERE ARE YOU !??
!!

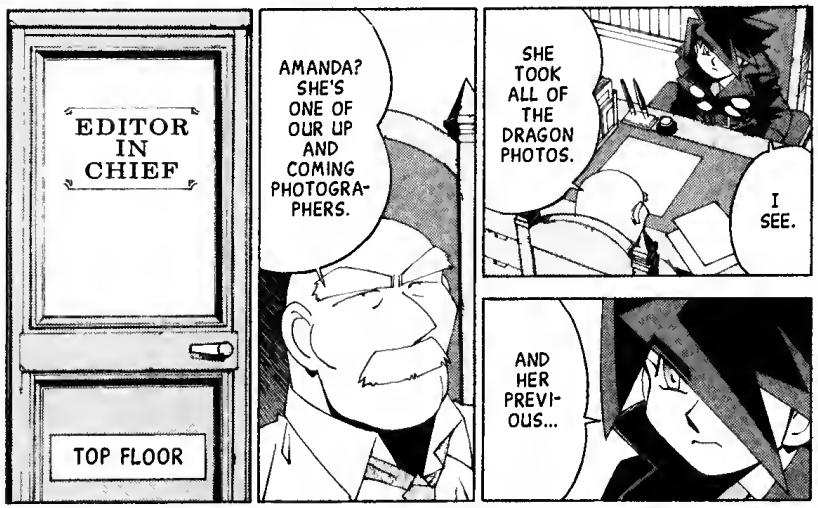
LING LING !!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, LING LING?
UHH...
I-I'M OKAY... I THINK...
I WAS JUST... SUR-PRISED.
!!
WHO'S THAT !?!
KA-CHAK
KA-CHAK
HEH HEH HEH HEH

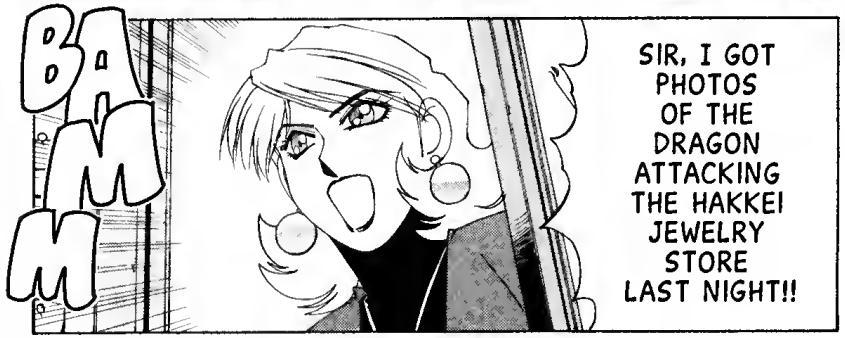
AMANDA...
AMANDA ROSE !!
KER ASH
FSSSHH
KER ASH
SH FSS HH
IT'S GONE !?!
THE DRAGON VAN-ISHED !!
.....

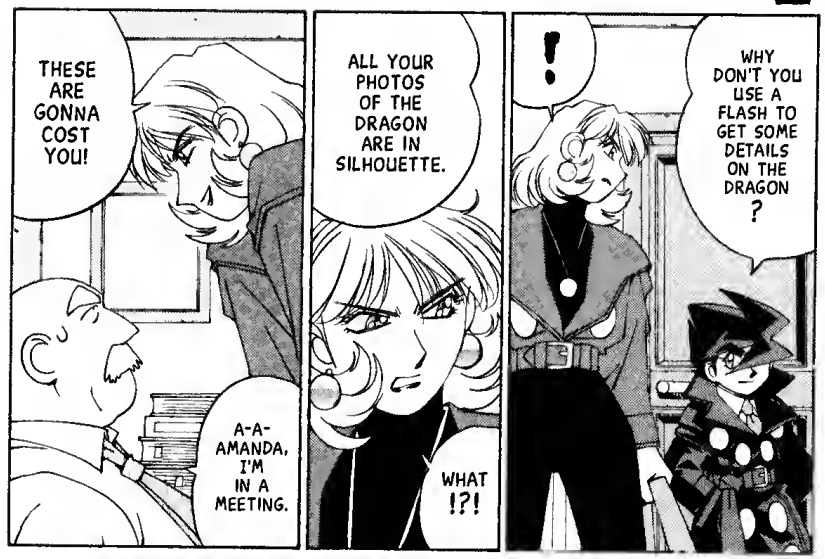
THE NEXT DAY
NARUTAKI DETECTIVE AGENCY
THEN THE JEWELS WERE.
THATS RIGHT. I RETURNED THE REAL ONES TO MR. MAN HE WAS OVERJOYED!
YOU SHOULDN'T HOLD OUT ON ME!
YOU COULD'VE TOLD ME YOU SWITCHED THEM WITH FAKES.
THEY SAY, IF YOU CAN FOOL YOUR ALLIES, THEN THE ENEMY WILL BE NO PROBLEM.
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
WE'LL TALK LATER, DETECTIVE ONIGAWARA
HOLD ON! IS LING LING--!?!
CHAK
SIGH
SQUEE
LING LING...
SHE ONLY SUFFERED LIGHT BURNS, BUT...

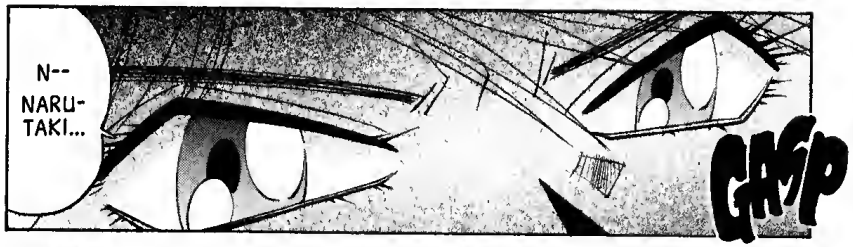
.....
KAWAKUBO, I NEED TO GO OUT FOR A MOMENT. CAN YOU LOOK AFTER LING LING?
OF COURSE, SIR.
WHERE TO?
VRRRRRMM
TO OFFICES OF THE STEAM DAILY PRESS!
VRRRRMM!!

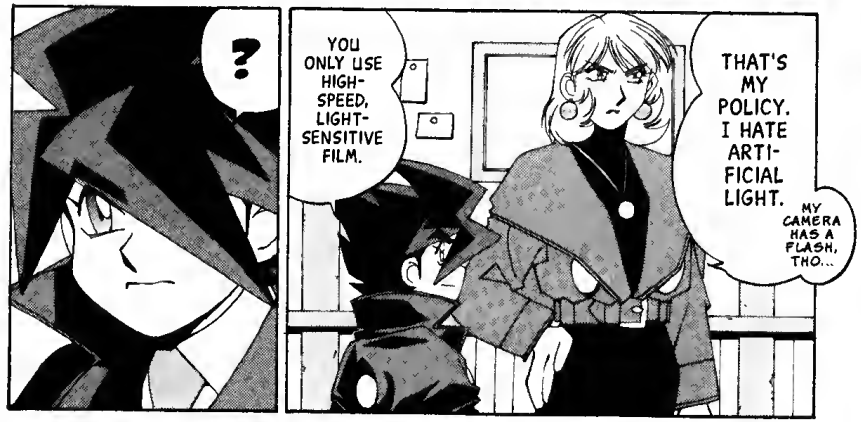
STEAM DAILY PRESS
STEAM DAILY PRESS MAIN OFFICES


EDITOR IN CHIEF
TOP FLOOR
AMANDA? SHE'S ONE OF OUR UP AND COMING PHOTOGRAPHERS.
SHE TOOK ALL OF THE DRAGON PHOTOS.
I SEE.
AND HER PREVIOUS...

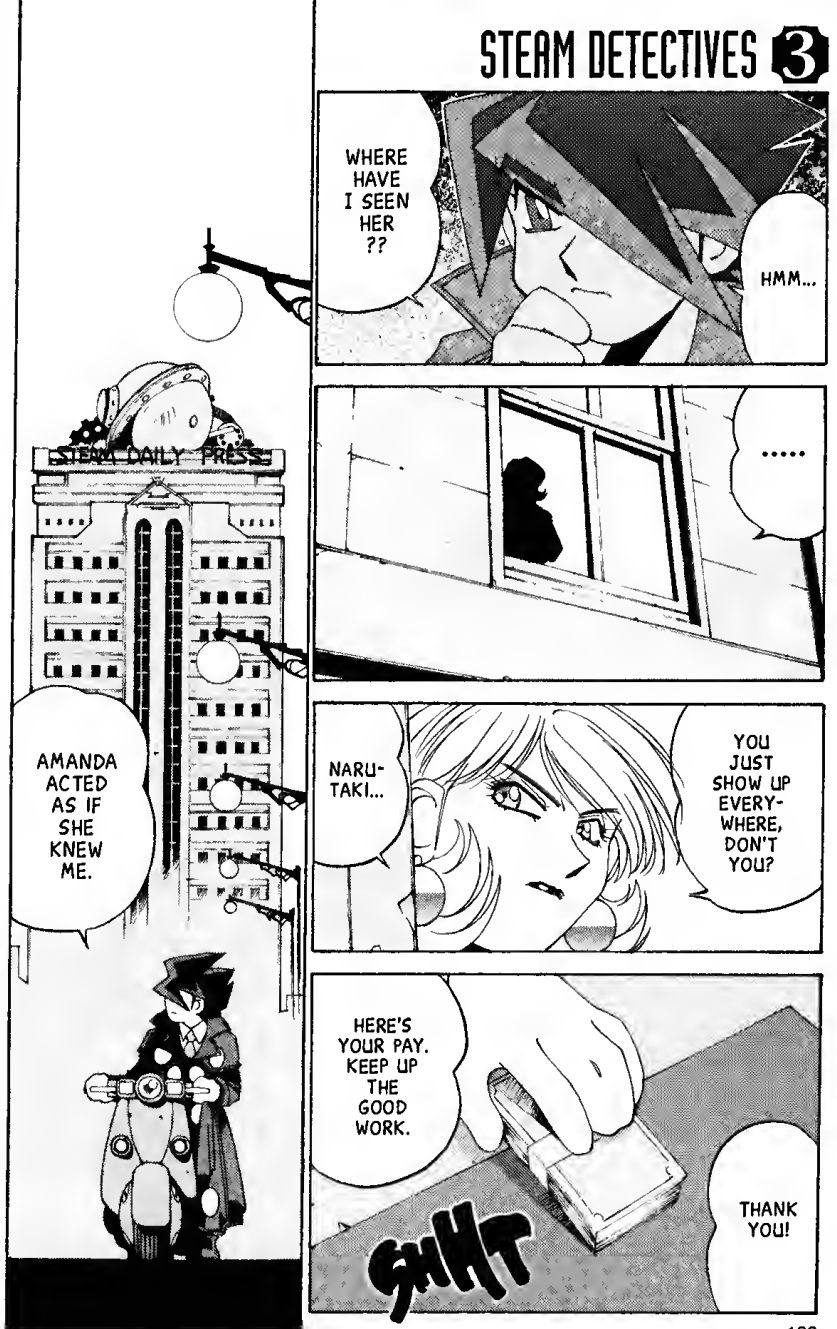

BAM
SIR, I GOT PHOTOS OF THE DRAGON ATTACKING THE HAKKEI JEWELRY STORE LAST NIGHT!!

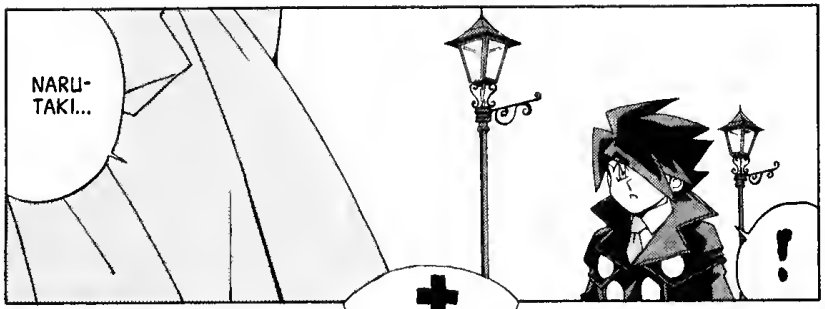

THESE ARE GONNA COST YOU!
A-A-AMANDA, I'M IN A MEETING.
ALL YOUR PHOTOS OF THE DRAGON ARE IN SILHOUETTE.
WHAT !?!
!
WHY DON'T YOU USE A FLASH TO GET SOME DETAILS ON THE DRAGON ?

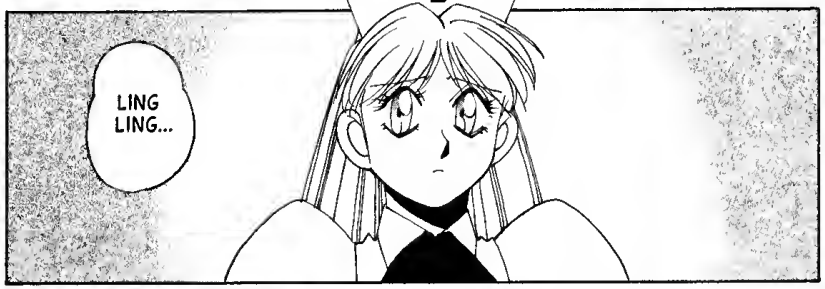

N-- NARU-TAKI...
GASP

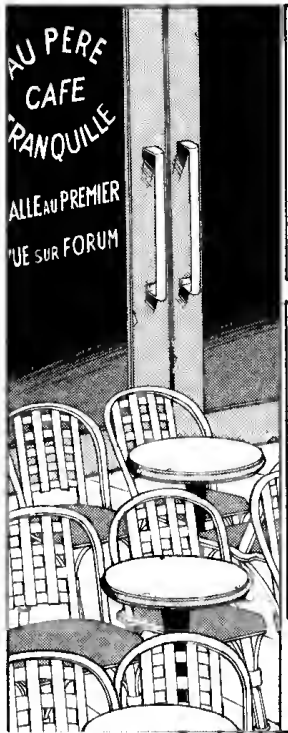

?
YOU ONLY USE HIGH-SPEED, LIGHT-SENSITIVE FILM.
THAT'S MY POLICY. I HATE ARTI-FICIAL LIGHT.
MY CAMERA HAS A FLASH, THO...

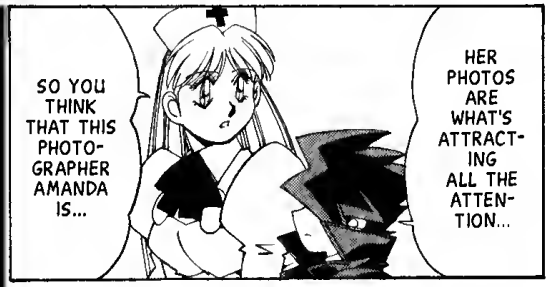
I SEE. I THOUGHT THERE WAS SURE TO BE A REASON YOU DIDN'T USE A FLASH.
Y'GOT SOMETHING YOU WANNA SAY, LITTLE BOY?
PERHAPS, IF WE SAW DETAIL ON THE DRAGON, WE'D DISCOVER SOME-THING...
AND REVEAL YOUR CONNEC-TION TO THE CASE...
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! YOU MAY HAVE A REPUTATION AS A DETECTIVE, BUT I SEE YOU'RE JUST A CHILD! YOU MAKE NO SENSE!
YOU'RE PROB-ABLY RIGHT.
NEXT TIME THE DRAGON APPEARS, I'D LIKE TO SEE A PHOTO OF ITS FACE.
SO PLEASE USE A FLASH NEXT TIME.

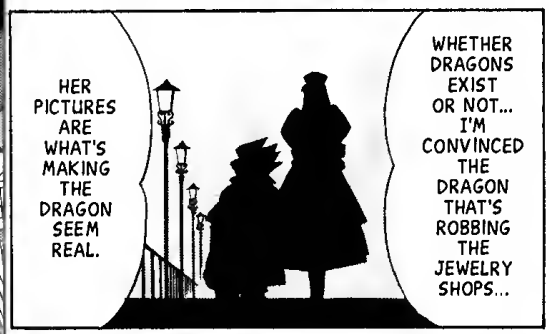

STEAM DAILY PRESS
AMANDA ACTED AS IF SHE KNEW ME.
WHERE HAVE I SEEN HER ??
HMM...
.....
NARU-TAKI...
YOU JUST SHOW UP EVERY-WHERE, DON'T YOU?
HERE'S YOUR PAY. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
THANK YOU!
SHIT


NARU-
TAKI...
!


LING
LING...


AU PERE
CAFE
TRANQUILLE
ALLE au PREMIER
UE SUR FORUM


SO YOU
THINK
THAT THIS
PHOTO-
GRAPHER
AMANDA
IS...
HER
PHOTOS
ARE
WHAT'S
ATTRACT-
ING
ALL THE
ATTEN-
TION...


HER
PICTURES
ARE
WHAT'S
MAKING
THE
DRAGON
SEEM
REAL.
WHETHER
DRAGONS
EXIST
OR NOT...
I'M
CONVINCED
THE
DRAGON
THAT'S
ROBBING
THE
JEWELRY
SHOPS...

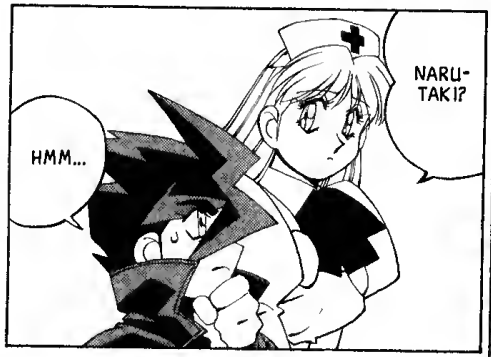
...IS
A
FAKE
!!

.....

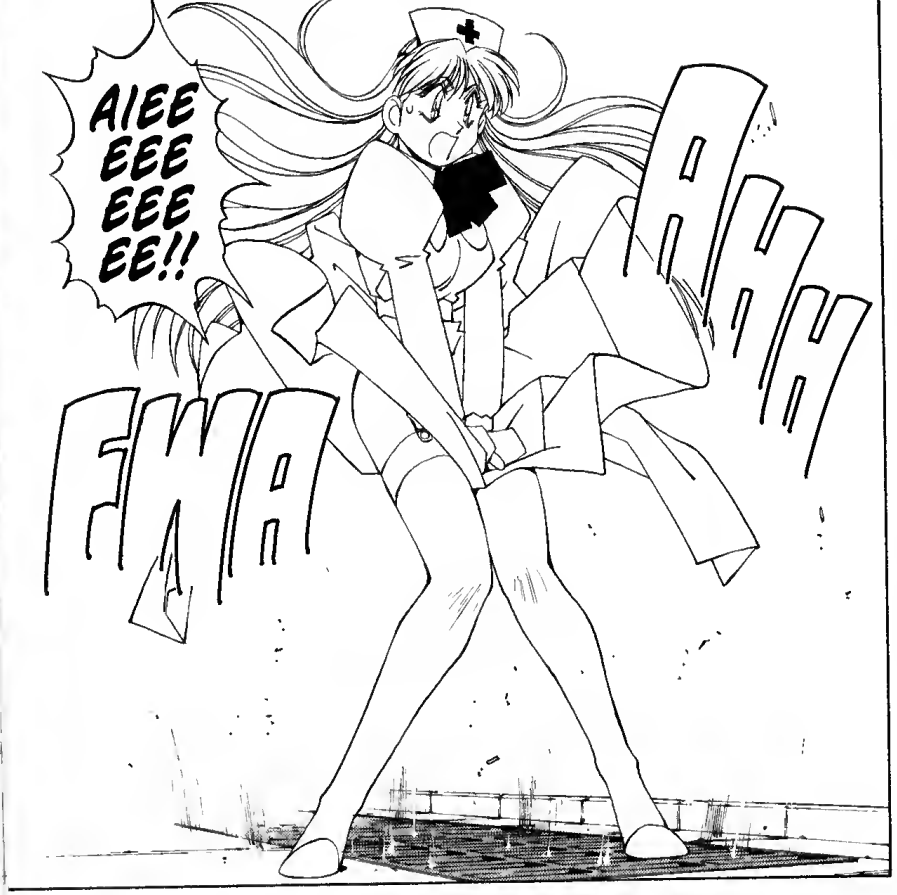
YOU'RE
RIGHT!
NO REAL
DRAGON
WOULD
EVER
BREAK
INTO A
JEWELRY
STORE!

SO,
HOW TO
FAKE A
DRAGON...

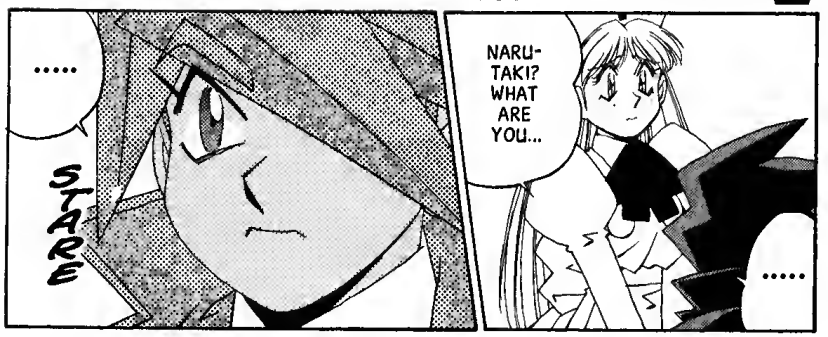
HOW
COULD
SOMETHING
THAT LARGE
APPEAR
AND
VANISH SO
SUDDENLY
?
THERE
MUST
BE
SOME
METHOD...


HMM...
NARU-
TAKI?

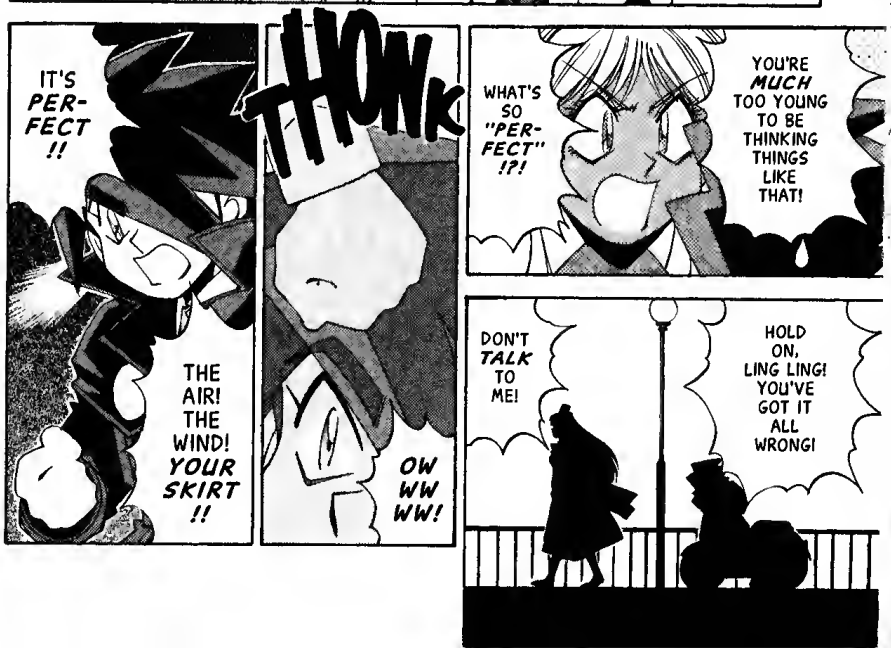
KATANK
KATANK
KATANK


AIEE EEE EEE EE!!
AAH
FWA

KA TA NK KA TANK
KA-TANK
I'M USUALLY CAREFUL NOT TO STEP ON THESE SUBWAY VENTS.
OOH-KHHH--
SIGH


.....
STARE
NARU-TAKI? WHAT ARE YOU...
.....

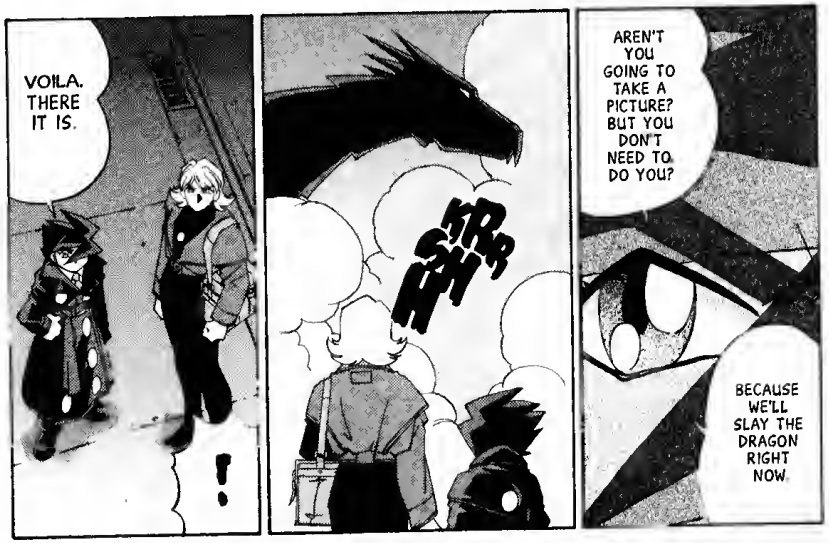
AIR ENTERS YOUR SKIRT AND BLOWS IT ABOVE YOUR WAIST!
OF COURSE! IT'S SO SIMPLE! WHY DID I NEVER NOTICE BEFORE !?!


IT'S PER-FECT !!
THE AIR! THE WIND! YOUR SKIRT !!
THONK
OW WW WW!
WHAT'S SO "PER-FECT" !?!
YOU'RE MUCH TOO YOUNG TO BE THINKING THINGS LIKE THAT!
DON'T TALK TO ME!
HOLD ON, LING LING! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!

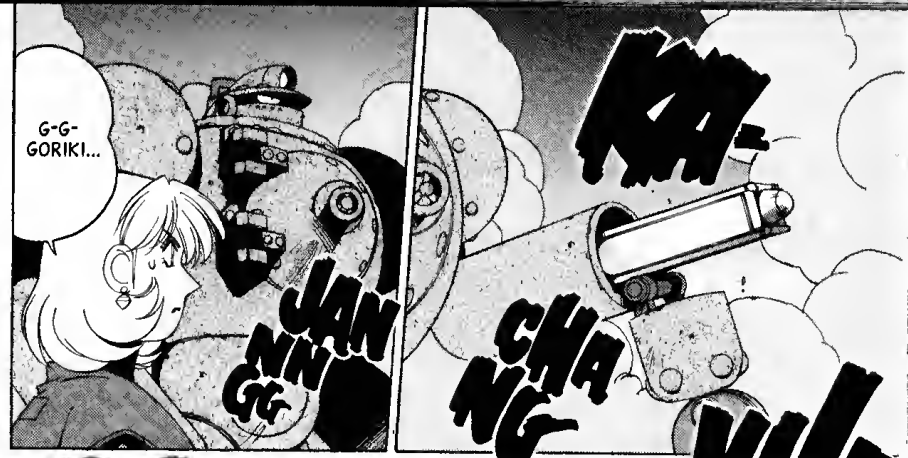
BONG
BONG
BONG
TMP
TMP
.....
GOOD EVENING, AMANDA!
Tup
AI EEE EE!!
N-NARU-TAKI...
KRICH
WORKING LATE, I SEE. ARE YOU DRAGON HUNTING ?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT! WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?
ISN'T IT PAST YOUR BED-TIME?

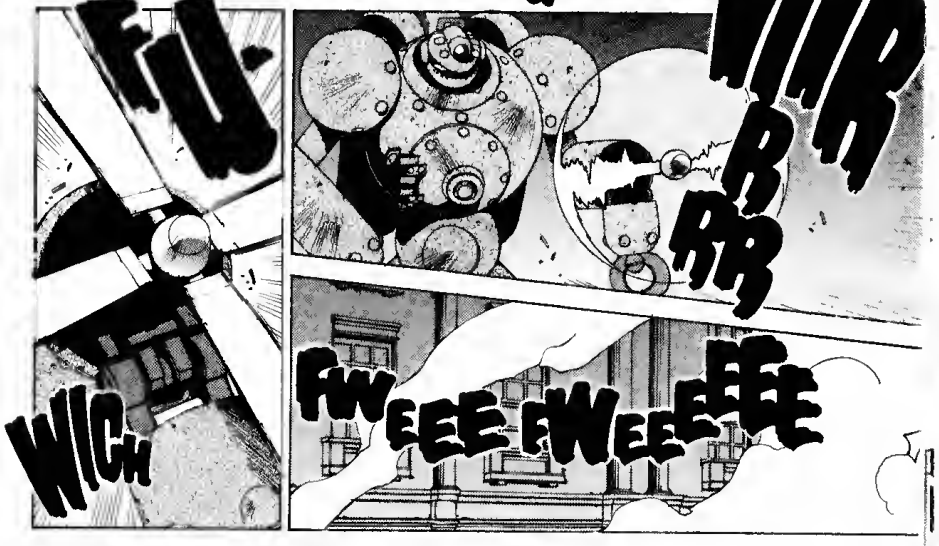
I WAS THINK-ING...
...PER-HAPS WE COULD GO HUNTING TO-GETHER.
WHAT ??
DON'T YOU THINK WE'D BE BETTER OFF?
THE DRAGON WILL APPEAR. I GUAR-ANTEE IT.
H-HOW CAN YOU BE SO SURE?
BECAUSE *YOU'RE* HERE.
WH--
ARE YOU TRYING TO INSINUATE THAT I'M *CON-TROLLING* THE DRAGON?
THAT'S *RIDICU-LOUS !*

FSSSS


VOILA. THERE IT IS.
!
GR GR
AREN'T YOU GOING TO TAKE A PICTURE? BUT YOU DON'T NEED TO DO YOU?
BECAUSE WE'LL SLAY THE DRAGON RIGHT NOW.

WHO'S "WE" ??
GORIKI! BLOW AWAY THE STEAM !!
RR
KA-FUMP


G-G-GORIKI...
JAN NN GG
KA-
CHA NG


FU-
WICH
VIR RRR
FWEEE FWEEEEEE

FWEE EE
FW
EEEE

URK
EE
EEE
KER-SHUNG
KER-SHUNG
KER-SHUNG
KER-SHUNG

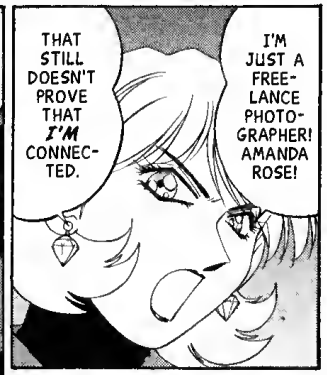
AH!
AR RRR GH!

THE DRAGON WAS JUST AN INFLATED FAKE! NOTHING ELSE COULD HAVE APPEARED AND DISAPPEARED SO QUICKLY!
BUT YOU HAD ONE PROBLEM! A BALLOON DOESN'T ALLOW FOR REALISTIC DETAILS!
SO YOU SOLVED THAT USING TWO METHODS.
.....

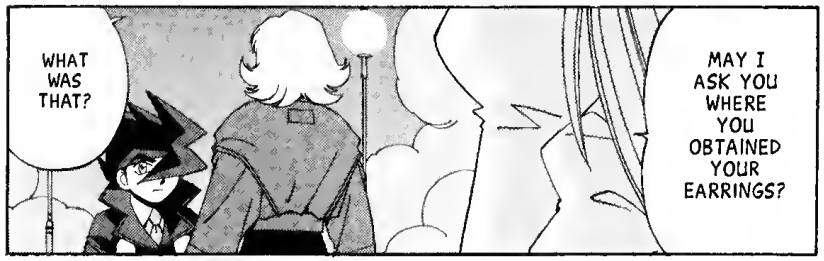
THE FIRST ONE WAS TO BLOW A LOT OF STEAM AROUND TO HIDE THE MACHINERY BENEATH! THE OTHER WAS AMANDA'S PHOTOS!
YOU SHOT YOUR PHOTOS ON HIGH-SPEED FILM WITHOUT USING A FLASH! THEN YOU HAD THEM PUBLISHED IN THE PAPERS. ALL THIS TO MAKE THE DRAGON SEEM REAL!

DAILY
THE VERY LACK OF DETAIL MAKES THE DRAGON SEEM REAL!
MAKE EVERYONE AFRAID, AND THE JEWELRY IS YOURS FOR THE STEALING!

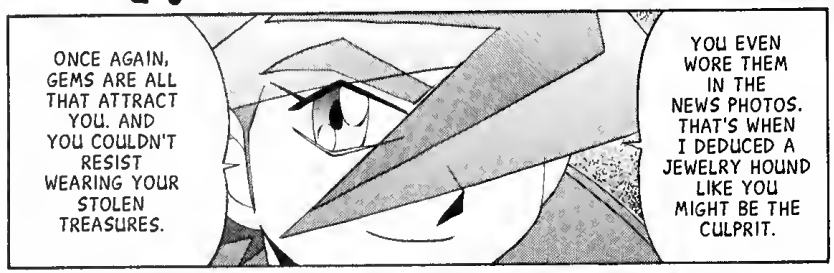
OHH, NOO!
WHAT'LL WE DO NOW?

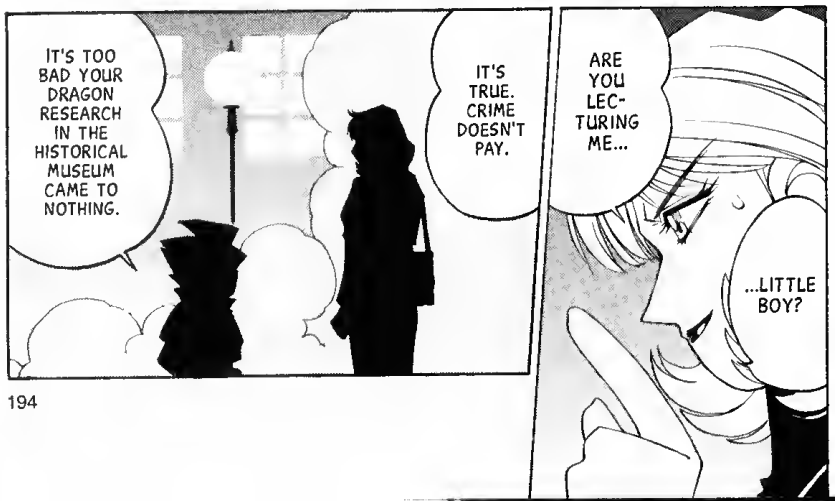

I'M JUST A FREE-LANCE PHOTO-GRAPHER! AMANDA ROSE!
THAT STILL DOESN'T PROVE THAT I'M CONNEC-TED.

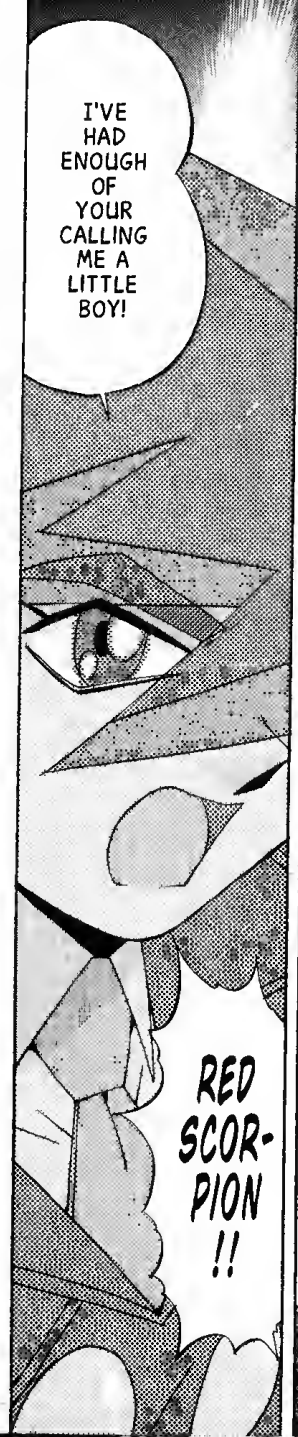
WILL THE FACTS BEAR THAT OUT?


WHAT WAS THAT?
MAY I ASK YOU WHERE YOU OBTAINED YOUR EARRINGS?

WHAT !?!
THOSE EARRINGS ARE FROM THE HAKKEI JEWELRY STORE!
THOSE ARE THE EARRINGS! I CUT THE DIAMONDS MYSELF!
THE OWNER HAD THEM CUSTOM-MADE FOR HIS WIFE!
K-KRR
SHH


ONCE AGAIN, GEMS ARE ALL THAT ATTRACT YOU. AND YOU COULDN'T RESIST WEARING YOUR STOLEN TREASURES.
YOU EVEN WORE THEM IN THE NEWS PHOTOS. THAT'S WHEN I DEDUCED A JEWELRY HOUND LIKE YOU MIGHT BE THE CULPRIT.

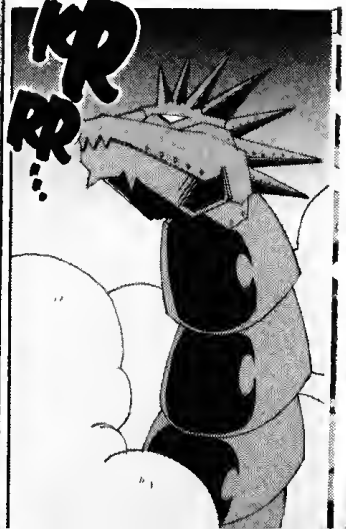

IT'S TOO BAD YOUR DRAGON RESEARCH IN THE HISTORICAL MUSEUM CAME TO NOTHING.
IT'S TRUE. CRIME DOESN'T PAY.
ARE YOU LEC-TURING ME...
...LITTLE BOY?


I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR CALLING ME A LITTLE BOY!
RED SCOR-PION !!

YOU ARE A LITTLE BOY, SO I'LL CALL YOU A LITTLE BOY!
LITTLE BOY !!

TMP
TAKE CARE OF HIM, GUYS!!

O-OKAY!
YES, BOSS!


KRRR

TUMP
IT MAY BE A BALLOON, BUT IT BREATHES FIRE LIKE A REAL DRAGON!!
EAT FLAMING DEATH, NARU-TAKI!!

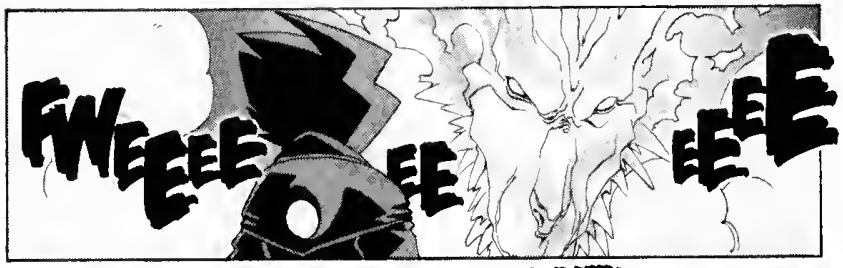
GWN OOOGH
ARR RGH !
OOOO GGH
AA AAH HH!
YA AAA AA AH!
RR
GWOOGGHH
GHWOO Ooo
OO
OO OO GH

YOU'LL BURN THE CITY TO THE GROUND !!
GWOOGHH
OGH
WELL, NARUTAKI? CAN YOU THINK YOUR WAY OUT OF AN INFERNO!?
THE TREASURES OF THIS CITY WILL BE MINE!! YOU'RE JUST IN MY WAY!!
OOOOO
OOOGH
NO!
OOOGH
IT'S JUST A BALLOON. ONE BULLET WOULD HAVE PUNCHED A HOLE IN IT!
BUT NOW EVERY-THING'S IN FLAMES, AND I'M HELP-LESS!
NARU-TAKI !!
GWOO OOOOO OOOGHH
WEE-OOO WEE-OOO
DING-DING DING DING

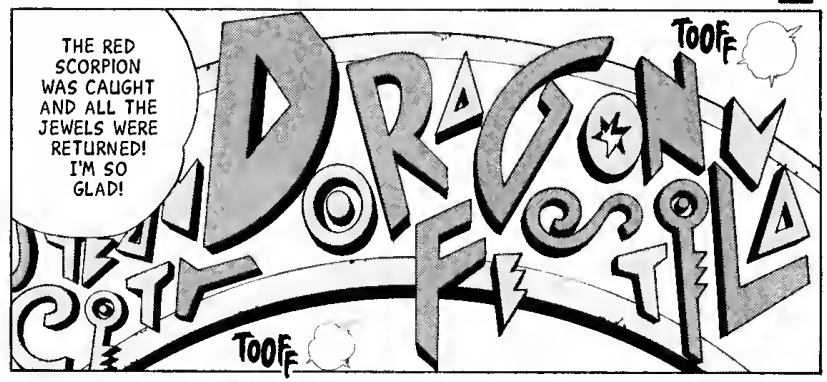
GWOO
OOOOGHH
SH
ING
AAA
THE FLAMES ARE OUT OF CONTROL! WE BETTER GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE BAKED, TOO!
YES, BOSS! WE'RE GONE!
NARUTAKI! THE RED SCORPION IS ESCAPING!!
SHE'S NOT GOING ANY-WHERE!
NARU-TAKI !!
GWOOOGH
NARUTAKI'S CHASING US! GET A MOVE ON!
YEAH--

WHAT...
GW
OOOO
OOOOO
OOOH
WHAA AAA AAHH! WE'RE GONNA DIE!
.....
WW
OOH
B
WAA
AA
AA
W

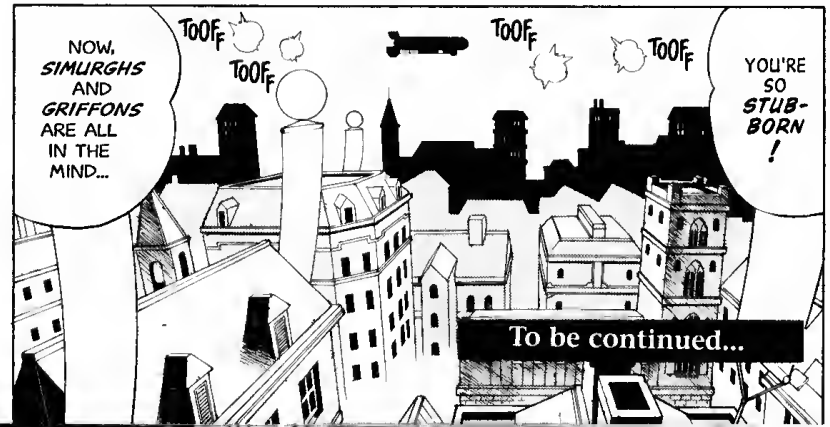
THU MP
THU MP
YA AAA AAA AH HH!
THUMP
!


FWEEEE
EE
EEEE

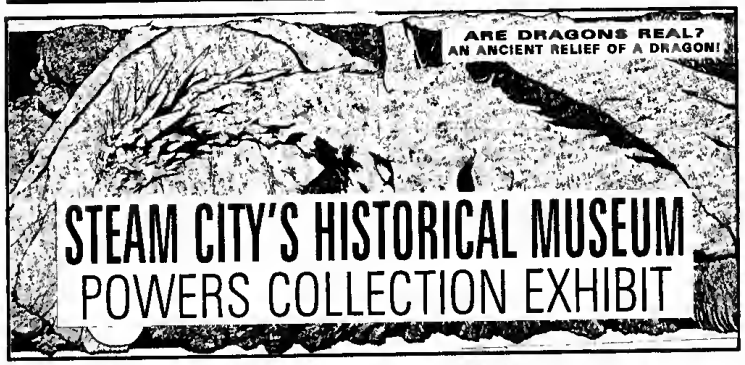
AA PP
HW
WHAT TH-
.....
FWOO OOOO


THE RED SCORPION WAS CAUGHT AND ALL THE JEWELS WERE RETURNED! I'M SO GLAD!
TOOFF
DRAGON FESTIVAL
TOOFF

DO YOU THINK DRAGONS EXIST *NOW*, NARUTAKI?
.....
THEY EXIST.
TOOFF
HMM?
WHAT HAP-PENED? YOU CHANGED YOUR MIND--
DRAGONS EXIST, AND THEY PROTECT THE CITY.


NOW, *SIMURGHS* AND *GRIFFONS* ARE ALL IN THE MIND...
TOOFF
TOOFF
TOOFF
TOOFF
YOU'RE SO *STUB-BORN!*
To be continued...

STEAM DETECTIVES PRESS



Steam City's historical museum is one of the largest museums in the world, and its most treasured exhibit is the giant fossil relief of a dragon, discovered in one of the coal mines on the outskirts of the city. However, this winter, the museum will be presenting us with an even more impressive exhibit!

Over his 85-year life span, Tim Powers assembled an amazing historical collection. And because he was one of the most prominent patrons of the Steam City Historical Museum, the museum is honored to exhibit his collection for one month.

The historical museum has repeatedly requested the Powers Foundation to lend its collection for exhibit. Finally, 50 years after his death, this request has been granted.

The Powers Collection reportedly includes ancient artifacts which support theories of the existence of holy beasts, ruins from the legendary super-civilization "Japoné" which sunk beneath the waves thousands of years ago, plus many other rare items.

This collection includes extremely important archaeological artifacts. Whether you are interested in history or not, the exhibition will thrill you!! Visit the exhibition and take a journey into the past!!

EXHIBITION SCHEDULE: 13/24-1/24
INFORMATION: HISTORICAL MUSEUM/OFFICE OF POWERS COLLECTION
PHONE: 4A008-094-01125B
(CLOSED ON TUESDAYS)

HISTORICAL MUSEUM

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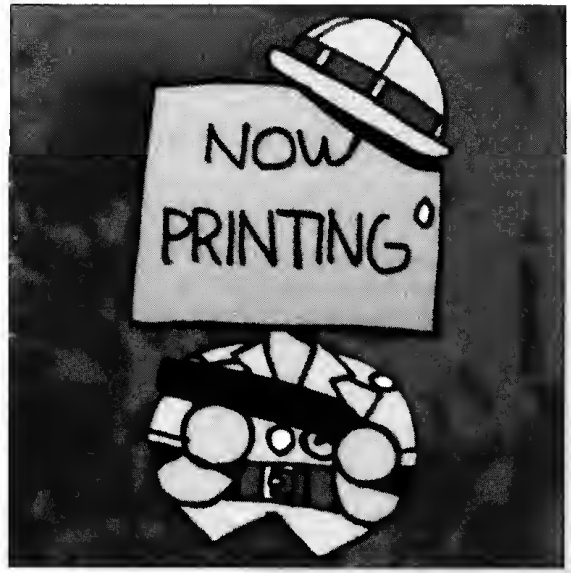

Kia Asamiya

Details are sketchy with regard to this elusive author, but since his debut work on *Vagrants* in 1986, he has produced some very popular manga and anime including *Silent Möbius*, *Compiler*, *Assembler*, *Gunhed*, *Dark Angel*, *Martian Successor Nadesico*, *Corrector Yui*, and others. In the past several years, no less than six of his manga series have been translated into English making him one of the most widely published manga artists in America.

A re-lea-se!
...RIGHT ?
YEAH...
I MEAN...
...WHAT IS THAT... ?
FWUUUU
.....
& Kick The Kitty
!
FW UU
Random Scans